MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM AND THE GARDEN.

AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

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Editorial

GROUND BONE.

A correspondent of the *Ploughman* inquires how much ground bone or "bone meal" should be applied to the acre for pasture or dressing on grass land? This is one of those questions which, like those in regard to the use and application of ashes, can best be answered by saying, *the more the better*. If the article is pure bone, not adulterated, a hundred pounds will be of service, but three or four hundred, or even a thousand pounds would be much better. If, again it is adulterated, or mixed with ground oyster shells or clam shells or any other kind of shells, as is almost universally the case, it will require a very large amount to do any good. Ground clam shells and oyster shells are nearly worthless as a fertilizer as compared with pure bone, and so, too, after bones have been boiled, they are comparatively poor in quality, and of course it will take a larger quantity per acre to produce a given result.

It is an unspeakable pity that the farmer cannot go to any respectable dealer in fertilizers and get a pure and honest article, especially when he is willing to pay for it. But *bone meal is largely adulterated with the* above named substances and sometimes, too, with "powdered anthracite coal," anthracite coal ashes, Jersey marl and fine quartz sand, so skillfully mixed as to make it next to impossible to detect it. Such stuff at sixty dollars a ton has the look of being rather dear for a farmer to buy, and if he is unfortunate enough to buy it, he should make up his mind to apply at least a thousand pounds per acre, in which case he might stand a reasonable chance of getting, say, a hundred or a hundred and fifty pounds of genuine bone material.

We should say, as a general rule, for grass land, apply about three hundred pounds per acre. Dr. Nichols stated before the State Board of Agriculture at Framingham that he had used bone meal, or bone dust, at the rate of three or four hundred pounds with good results. It is evident that the quantity per acre should be governed very much by the quality of the article itself, and of this we cannot say much, and would not undertake to guarantee it for any sample that we know of in the market. Pure ground bone is worth for farming purposes from thirty to forty dollars a ton and no more. Forty is as much as any farmer can afford to pay for it and it is dear at that. Sixty is out of the question.

As to the best mode of application, we think it about as useful as a top dressing, as any way, upon grass land, either pasture or mowing, early in spring, say the latter part of March or April. It is better kept near the surface. A mixture of half ashes and half ground bone is very useful, and if the mixture is allowed to lie together in bulk a few weeks and is kept moist, it will hasten the decomposition of the bone dust, and when it is applied let it be on a moist field rather than on a dry or upland knoll, though if the season is tolerably moist and the grass comes up thickly to shade it, it will do excellent service in such places.

Ground bone, or bone dust, as it is commonly called, is a most excellent fertilizer, also, for ploughed land, but here also it is desirable to keep it near the surface. It may be spread broadcast and harrowed in, or simply brushed over. If it is a pure article it will certainly be found and appropriated by plants. If it is applied to corn in the hill, as it is often convenient to apply it, it is better to take the precaution to throw a little earth over it with the heel of the boot, so as not to plant the corn directly in contact with it. If it is good for much it will be likely to injure the germ, or the tender roots after they have started, and the corn may fail to "come up" in consequence.

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Trustees of the Agricultural College held a quarterly meeting at the Secretary's office, on Wednesday, the 7th inst., His Excellency Gov. Washburn in the chair.

Several changes were made in the by-laws, by which the times of holding meetings were fixed, and to make it the duty of every member of the Board of Trustees to visit the College at least once in each year, making the election of new members by ballot, and requiring that nominations shall lie over three months.

Prof. Henry James Clark, of Lexington, Ky., was appointed Professor of Veterinary Science, including Human Anatomy, Physiology, Zoology and Comparative Anatomy, and the use of the Compound Microscope, with a salary of $2250 a year.

Prof. Clark, it is understood, will enter upon his duties at Amherst, at the beginning of the next collegiate year in September.

We think this a most important appointment, and it must be of immense service to the College. Prof. Clark is still young in years, but has already won a wide and deserved distinction among the scientific men of the country. We know of no man more competent than he to fill so important a position, and we are sure he will do it with honor to himself and to the satisfaction of the community.

Hon. Levi Stockbridge was appointed Professor of Agriculture. Heretofore he has held the position nominally of Superintendent of the Farm, but has been fulfilling the duties of the professorship of agriculture from the first, and to the general satisfaction, not only of the officers, but of the students of the College. Gov. Washburn, who has been a trustee from the original organization, tendered his resignation of that position on account of the fact that his present official position makes him *ex officio* a member of the Board.

He was unanimously requested to withdraw his resignation, and we hope he will consent to do it. His sound judgment, clear head and business tact and ability have been of great value to the college from the beginning of the enterprise, and it would be a great loss to the Board to have him retire from it at the close of his official career as governor of the commonwealth.

The resignation of Hon. D. Waldo Lincoln was accepted, and John Cummings Jr., Esq., of Woburn, and William Knowlton, Esq., of Upton, were nominated for the vacancy. These nominations lie over three months in accordance with the new by-laws.

The election of officers for the year took place with the following results:—President, William B. Washburn; Vice President, William S. Clark; Secretary, Charles L. Flint; Treasurer, Nathan Durfee; Auditor, Henry Colt; Executive Committee, Messrs. Clark, Durfee, Colt, Stedman and White.

The annual report was read by Col. Clark and accepted.

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The annual business meeting of the State Board was held last week at the office of the Secretary at the State House. His Excellency Gov. Washburn was present and presided through a considerable part of the sessions. The early part of the session was devoted chiefly to the presentation of the reports of delegates appointed to visit the Agricultural Societies, to the transaction of the business of the year, the appointment of committees, &c.

On Tuesday Mr. John T. Ellsworth, of Barre, submitted a highly interesting and practical essay upon the Management of the Dairy, which will form a very valuable and instructive part of the forthcoming report.

On Wednesday morning the newly elected members took their seats, having been elected for three years from that date, as follows: Dr. George B. Loring, by the Essex Society, Joseph N. Sturtevant, by the Middlesex South; O. B. Hadwen, by the Worcester, Thomas P. Root, by the Worcester West, Eugene T. Miles, by the Worcester North; Jonathan McElwain, by the Highland; Roger H. Leavitt, by the Deerfield Valley—a new Society incorporated a year ago; Avery P. Slade, by the Bristol; Chas. G. Davis, by the Plymouth; Andrew M. Myrick, by the Nantucket; and James F. C. Hyde, of Newton, appointed by the Executive.

Mr. Fay presented the Report of the Examining Committee of the Agricultural College. This committee is appointed by the Board in its capacity as a Board of Overseers of the College. The committee consisted last year of Messrs. Agassiz, Fay, Hubbard, Johnson and Knowlton.

The newly appointed committee for the present year consists of Messrs. Leverett Saltonstall, Andrew J. Bucklin and S. B. Phinney.

Mr. Stockbridge presented on Thursday, an elaborate and highly valuable paper upon the agriculture of his district, eastern Hampshire county, comprising the ten towns lying east of the Connecticut.

Mr. Goodman also submitted an essay upon the Horticultural and Agricultural Education of Women. Delegates were appointed to attend and report upon the Fairs of the various Agricultural Societies as follows:

To the Essex, S. B. Phinney, of Barnstable.
" Middlesex, J. F. C. Hyde, of Newton.
" Middlesex North, E. T. Miles, of Fitchburg.
" Middlesex South, Richard Goodman, of Lenox.
" Worcester, Geo. M. Baker, of Marshfield.
" Worcester West, H. Converse, of Palmer.
" Worcester North, J. Ladd, of Lowell.
" Worcester Northwest, E. W. Boise, of Blandford.
" Worcester South, N. P. Brown, of North Adams.
" Worcester Southeast, R. H. Leavitt, of Charlemont.
" Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden, L. Saltonstall, of Newton.
" Hampshire, Jos. N. Sturtevant, of South Framingham.
" Highland, T. L. Allis, of Conway.
" Hampden, Levi Stockbridge, of Amherst.
" Hampden East, T. P. Root, of Barre.
" Union, F. F. Fay, of Athol.
" Franklin, J. McElwain, of Middlefield.
" Deerfield Valley, W. Knowlton, of Upton.
" Berkshire, E. Stone, of Dedham.
" Housatonic, A. P. Peck, of Northampton.
" Housac Valley, N. S. Hubbard, of Brimfield.
" Norfolk, A. Fearing, of Hingham.
" Bristol, M. P. Wilder, of Boston.
" Bristol Central, C. G. Davis, of Plymouth.
" Plymouth, A. P. Slade of Somerset,
" Marshfield, O. B. Hadwen, of Worcester.
" Hingham, G. B. Loring, of Salem.
" Barnstable, A. M. Myrick, of Nantucket.
" Nantucket, W. S. Clarke, of Amherst.
" Martha's Vinyard, W. Birnie, of Springfield.

It was decided to hold the next country meeting at Barre on the 3rd, 4th and 5th days of December next. The committee to whom the subject had been referred reported unanimously in favor of holding the meeting about the middle of November, and the report was accepted, but Mr. Stockbridge and Col. Clark opposed that time on account of its being in term time at the Agricultural College, and urged carrying it forward into December, which was finally done to meet their wishes. The result will be to delay the appearance of the annual Report about a month, more than three weeks at the very least, and the serious part of it is that it cannot be read and studied at the time it appears in April as it would be if it could come out in March. The farmer has more leisure in March before he gets into the hurry of spring's work. In April or May he is hurried and tired at night. If he gets the Reports, as he will this year, by the middle of March, they can be read and studied in preparation for the summer's operations, and practically they will do vastly more good than if they came out later.

The Massachusetts Reports have always been out more promptly than any other State Report in the country, but this year they will come out at least a month earlier than usual on account of the fact that the country meeting was held in November instead of December, as has formerly been the case and it must be admitted to be a very great gain, when it is considered that more than ten thousand copies are distributed among the farmers in all parts of this State.

The vote, therefore, fixing the meeting in December, was highly complimentary to Col. Clark and Prof. Stockbridge, because it practically decided that it is more important for them to be present without the slightest inconvenience, than it is to accomodate forty or fifty thousand farmers by placing the report in their hands at a season when they can read it at their leisure. It is reasonable to suppose that each volume will be read on an average, by four or five persons at least. But besides that, November is usually better getting about, enabling the farmers in the vicinity of the meeting to show their stock and their farming operations to large numbers of people from a distance, and enabling the members of the Board to see what is going on in the neighborhood.

Messrs. Root, of Barre, Hubbard of Brimfield, Fay of Athol, Hadwen of Worcester and the Secretary were appointed a committee to make arrangements for the meeting.

The Hon. Marshall P. Wilder and the Secretary were appointed delegates to attend the Agricultural Convention to be held at Washington on the 15th inst.

The following list of subjects for essays was assigned to committees for investigation and report as follows:

"Field and Garden Seeds," Messrs. Moore, Hyde and Wilder. "Cultivation and use of Forest trees," Messrs Clark, Stone and Durfee. "The use of Steam on the Farm," Messrs. Stockbridge, Hadwen and Fay. "The relative value of Farming among the occupations of Life," Messrs. Hubbard, Slade and Sturtevant. "The Importance of Providing other Food for Cattle than pasturage," Messrs. Goodman, McElwain and Root. The time of beginning the Fair of the Deerfield Valley Society was fixed on the last Tuesday of September.

The meeting was a working and business like session, and the proceedings will be reported in full in the Secretary's Report, soon to be issued.

HYBRIDIZATION OF PLANTS.

Hon. Marshall P. Wilder gave the first of a series of lectures proposed to be given at Horticultural Hall, under the auspices of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, on Wednesday evening, the 7th, upon the Hybridization of Plants, a subject to which he has given great attention. Col. Wilder has probably made more experiments and had a greater experience in the production of new varieties of plants by cross fertilization, than any man in our midst, perhaps than any man in the country. His lecture upon the subject was therefore anticipated with much interest, and a goodly audience attended and listened with great attention.

The different systems adopted for the production of new varieties were explained, including the theory and practice of Van Mons, Knight, and others, and the results of the lecturer's own experiments presented. We hope to be able at an early day to present an abstract of the lecture, and give a more adequate idea of it.

Questions & Answers.

MILKING COWS TO CALVING TIME.

Editor of Massachusetts Ploughman:

I have seen that the subject of milking cows up to the time of their calving is practiced and recommended by some persons, and I should like to know what the effect is upon the cow after she calves, whether she will give as much milk after she calves as if she went dry a few weeks; as it is very convenient for those who keep but one cow to have them give milk nearly all the time, if it can be done without injuring the cow by making her give less milk after calving.

The subject of a great yield of butter from small quantities of milk leaves us in the dark, as we do not know whether the measure is the large or small quart, that is the old-fashioned milk quart or the legal quart; and again we do not know whether the milk in some instances quoted was milked for the purpose of seeing how little milk it would take to make a pound of butter by taking the last part of the milking. I know a man who took one large quart of the last of the milking (or the strippings as it might be called) and from it he made five ounces of butter, and that beats all that I have seen quoted. There are others in town who say they have made a pound of butter from four quarts of milk, large quarts of course, but if we can get a pound of butter from eight quarts of milk we may call it good.

Yours &c., P. M.

East Bridgewater, Mass., Feb. 3, 1872.

The effect is to injure both cow and calf, and the practice of milking up to the next calving ought to be avoided if possible. It draws too hard on the animal system, and the cow will not do so well the following season as if she goes dry a few weeks. But sometimes it is no easy matter to dry a cow off when you know she ought to go dry. We have a little Brittany cow that has been giving milk freely for nearly five years, ever since she first came in, in 1868. An effort has been made every year to dry her off, but she seems to like the fun of giving milk, as if that were the chief end and aim of her life.

We think a cow ought to go dry about six weeks at least. Eight or ten would be better. Put her on poor feed and milk once a day awhile and then every other day, and in most cases the milk will cease. But some cows are much more difficult to dry up than others.—[ED.

LEG WEAKNESS IN FOWLS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Can you or any of the readers of the *Ploughman* inform me through your most valuable paper, the cause of fowls loosing the use of their legs? Is there any help for it? If so, what is it.

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Middleboro, Feb. 4, 1872.

The complaint alluded to by our correspondent is known among poultry men as "leg weakness," which is most frequently caused by a too rapid increase of weight for the growth of the muscular system. It is most often present in the heaviest fowls, and some of the eastern varieties are most subject to it.

The treatment should be such that while the fatty secretions are diminished, the fleshy or muscular tissues are more developed. All *fat producing* foods should be avoided, and oats, barley, and other non-carbonaceous foods be used. A daily pill, containing from three to eight grains of citrate of iron should be given the diseased birds.—[Ed.

☞ Forty thousand bushels of onions were raised in the Holland settlement, near Chicago, the present season.

Correspondence.

AFTER "PROGRESS."

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

The "*Ploughman*" is always a very welcome visitor, from which I derive many useful hints, but occasionally I find some points which do not accord with my experience; one in the last *Ploughman* over the signature of "Progress," especially differs from my own opinions founded on experience.

Your correspondent, in speaking of muck, makes use of the following expression: "Which of itself is not of sufficient value to pay for carting." Now my experience is, that muck does pay for carting; not only for carting, but for digging, and a very liberal percentage over and above all expense of composting. I have been led to this conclusion by experience which is based on experiments continued through the last five years.

When I removed to this place, five years since, about five acres had been previously treated with a heavy coating of muck by the previous owner, who told me that muck was of no value except to make weeds grow, but on ploughing up the ground and planting with tomatoes, the effect of the muck was plainly visible. The next year it was planted with corn with a like result; last year it was again in corn, and produced the best corn, by far, of any part of the field. There can be no doubt that the improvement in the appearance of the crops was the result of the muck, as the whole field, about ten acres, had and did receive the same after treatment, which consisted of a slight coating of lime over the whole field.

I have applied muck to potatoes, producing a good crop; this was three years since, and the effect was plainly marked in subsequent crops. I always use one-half muck, in compost with stable manure, and find that it acts just as well as where the manure only is used in the adjacent rows of vegetables; last year I spread muck over a part of the corn ground, with about twenty-five bushels of lime per acre. My corn was just as good on this part as where I spread manure fresh from the stables, on another part of the field; where a load of muck, without any admixture, had been left in my peach orchard, the clover grew two feet high, while in other portions there was little or none.

Wherever I have used it, it has proved beneficial, and I cannot account for the diversity of opinion on the subject, unless there is a great difference in the quality and composition of the material. That used by me is dug on the bank of Bohemia River, where there are large deposits, certainly ten feet deep, which spade out like cheese, and when rubbed between the thumb and finger appear almost devoid of grit; when frozen and dried, it spreads like ashes; it is composed of decayed marine vegetable matter, peculiar to Southern rivers, with possibly a small portion of animal matter from the spawn of fish which abound in the river.

With my present convictions, I certainly should be inclined to endorse the views contained in the very able address of Hon. Levi Bartlett, in preference to those contained in the article of "Progress," who, I am satisfied, has had an inferior article to experiment with, or must be mistaken in his deductions.

Respectfully, D. Z. EVANS.

Town Point, Md., Jan. 21, 1872.

SEA WEED AND KELP.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

A great deal has been written and well written, many questions asked and answered intelligently in the *Ploughman*, the last few weeks, with regard to the management of manure; and the question is, Will it pay to compost with other substances. I have seen no reply from the seashore, so will give my experience for fifteen years in the use of seaweed and kelp obtained from our shores. For a season I used peat muck, but object to that, for the reason that it was almost impossible to keep the cows clean with muck in the trench behind them, but with kelp there is no such objection, the barn is easily cleaned and no risk of filth in the pails when milking. For several years I kept my horses in the same building with the cows; in my opinion this is not best. I built a barn for the cows with the leanto on the east side, and with a cellar under them, running outside about ten feet, over which is a roof, so that we have no water from the outside, and it has a tight bottom and stone sides. Every day we put kelp or sea weed in the trench and on the platform, then scrape all out, and so have our barn sweet and clean; we have hogs on the manure all the time. Should it become too moist for the comfort of the hogs we put in a few loads from our horse barns; the bedding for the horses is mostly dry seaweed. By managing in this way we get a pile of manure that in my estimation is worth load for load as much as clear dung. My practice is to take out all the manure in November or early in December and spread on the land; and again in April.

I want no rain water with my manure, but like much to have it for my animals to drink, so we lead all that falls on our barns into cisterns, and do not turn the cows out unless the weather is very pleasant, and then but for a short time, except there is good feed in the pastures. Our winter feed for cows is one quart Indian meal, half a bushel of carrots or beets, as the season is, and as much English hay as they want. I agree with a writer in the last number of the *Ploughman* with regard to feeding hogs for profit. Keep young hogs and feed all that they will eat, excepting those kept for breeding, for which I find the Mangel Wurtzel the best feed for winter with very little grain.

DAVID FOLGER.

Nantucket Jan. 20, 1872.

MILK TO A POUND OF BUTTER.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Having seen in the *Ploughman* several times, "how many quarts of milk to a pound of butter" I thought I would give my experience. I had a native cow that I butchered last summer on account of her age, she being sixteen years old. I measured out two quarts of her milk and made nine ounces of butter from it. I tried two quarts from another cow at the same time, she made three ounces; one week in June I made twenty-one pounds of butter from her. She had fourteen calves; all were heifers but two, nine were raised, some proved equal to her, some not as good. I have sold two hundred dollars worth of butter from her in one season. One cow that came from her when she was ten years old, made one pound and a half from one milking. I have a cow that came from her that is eleven years old that will make eighteen ounces from six quarts of milk. The past season I have sold six pounds per week besides furnishing my own family with what butter and milk they wanted; with no feed but grass. Now if any one can beat this I would like to hear from him, and I will own beat. C. N. BEECHER.

Woodbridge, Conn., Jan. 31, 1872

USE OF ABSORBENTS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Seeing a number of different articles in the *Ploughman* on the composting, etc., of manure I wish to say a few words on that subject.

I believe each farmer ought to use an absorbent for the liquid that many allow to run to waste from their stock; as one writer says, this is the most important part of manure. I agree also with him in the point, that as a manure the absorbent is of no account, only as an agent to transport the liquid from the barn to the field.

It is my opinion that a mixing of soils is an improvement in farming, (if I am wrong I am willing to be corrected.) Admitting this, let each farmer select an absorbent according to his soil. If his fields be clay or clayey loam, select sand; if a high, sandy soil, then take muck or black loam. Muck should be drawn out and allowed to dry before using.

One writer advances the idea that manure should not be disturbed until removed to be applied to the ground; with him I do not agree. I have used green manure from the heap and that which has been well pulverized in the cellar. The latter gave the best satisfaction.

The hogs should never know any other home in winter than a well aired barn cellar. After removing the manure in the spring, cover the bottom of the cellar with what old refuse hay may remain in and about the barn; as the manure accumulates allow it to remain till fall, except horse manure, which should be thrown over occasionally, when the whole should be thrown over the bottom of the cellar, and from three to seven or more hogs, (which every farmer ought to keep,) should be turned in and allowed to make it their home till spring; let the manure heaps from the scuttles in the meantime be kept well scattered about, and in the spring I am confident the result will be satisfactory.

C. H. W.

South Braintree, 1872.

SCRAPS FOR HOGS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

In the *Ploughman* of the 3rd inst. inquiry is made relative to the value and use of scraps for hogs. When we can get pigs to weigh three hundred pounds or more, at seven or eight months old, I don't think it advisable or economical to keep them longer. Therefore I will give my opinion of their value for pigs. I have had considerable experience in feeding both pork and beef scraps. I consider the pork worth much more, and less labor to use them.

I put about sixteen pounds of scraps into my kettle at night with water sufficient to feed sixteen pigs, which I intend to kill about the first of March. I warm it in the morning sufficient to feed, put in about a peck of meal, and after feeding put the same quantity into my kettle for night. They cost less per pound in market than grain, and I consider them worth very much more.

Mr. Editor, you say you do not approve much of giving scraps to pigs; but give no reasons. Now sir, if the lard (or pork grease) that is made from these is wholesome and healthy for human beings to eat, I can see no earthly reason why the scraps are not equally so for pigs.

C. G. WILLIAMS.

Brooklyn, Ct., Feb. 7, 1872.

MILK TO A POUND OF BUTTER.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

In the *Ploughman* of Dec. 30, Mr. Benjamin Corson stated that he made from twelve quarts of milk one pound and thirteen ounces of butter; I think that I have beaten that by considerable. From seventeen quarts and one pint I made three pounds and one-half of butter. My cows are the common breed, and are fed on nothing but hay. If any one can beat that I should be pleased to hear from him. Some think farming on Cape Cod is poor business.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN GEGGATT.

Hatchville, Mass., Jan. 26, 1872.

The Garden.

ALSIKE CLOVER.

We copy the following from "How to Make the Farm Pay," by G. Deitz, of Chambersburg, Penn.

From a very limited trial we have made with this clover, we are satisfied it is better than our white clover as a pasture-grass; unlike the red clover, it is perennial.

We believe, upon a fair trial, Alsike clover will recommend itself favorably to the farmer and will be preferred to the red, whenever it can be advantageously grown. This year it has been cut six feet four inches in length, and the average length on one acre was four feet. Our stock prefers it to all other clovers, and the afterswath does not salivate our horses or cattle. It should be sown with Timothy or stiff grasses, to hold its fine growth up. It will stay green until after harvest, when it will be as green as the timothy, and not turn black, as our red clover, when cut late as Timothy is, after being left standing until after harvest. It can also be threshed with timothy, and the seed easily separated, and it also acts as a flavor to threshed Timothy and all can be fed up without waste.

Alsike luxuriates in damp soils, and will not freeze out, as the red clover, and can also be used well as a fertilizer, as it yields a heavy succulent matter to plough under. It also has three times the amount of roots that red clover has.

Alsike can be sown in the fall Timothy at seeding time, and on almost all seed drills there is a grass seeder attached, to sow grass seed, especially the Willoughby drill, which has a grass seeder and guano attachment combined with the gain drill. Three quarts of Alsike and three quarts of Timothy make a very good seeding for an acre.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

POTATOES.

One of the principal causes of the risk attending the farmer's labor, is found in the uncertainty of his crops. So it has been the practice of wise farmers to divide their labors upon a variety of products, and thus to lessen the risk upon any one. At the same time they have taken the greatest care to provide themselves with the best of seed, at whatever price. And still, in spite of better cultivation, more liberal manuring and more intelligent selection of varieties, we hear continued complaints of failure, especially in regard to potatoes. Those among the *Ploughman's* Massachusetts readers who planted potatoes twenty-five years ago, know that there has been a complete change of varieties many times since then; a change oftener and oftener repeated as time goes on.

Twenty-five years ago an English white potato was planted for early use, a deep blue or calico for winter use, and a long red for late spring. They were all good potatoes, with a slight deduction for the seed end of the last, and they were planted year after year without failure or complaint. Then came the rot, with the destruction of the old varities, and the necessity for new, to take their place.

First came the "Davis Seedling," a coarse, strong potato, which has contrived to survive our mismanagement, though occasionally failing; and the "Dover," a first rate variety, long since dead. To them have succeeded numberless "Whites" and "Reds" "Garnets" and "Cuzcos," "Goodrich" and "Early Rose," with others still in the state of advertising at $5.00 a pound, all of which have passed or are passing from "prime" to "fair," then to "not so good this year," and so to "worthless." Doubtless more than one of the thinking readers of the *Ploughman* has asked himself why it is that these potatoes will not bear replanting, as did the older varieties, first named. The *Ploughman* will attempt to give a reasonable answer to the question, founded partly upon theory, partly upon experience which is merely a theory wrought out in the ground.

A potato ripened, and newly dug from the ground is plump, mealy and dry; nearly pure starch. If kept in the ground, below the frost, it does not sprout but remains in this condition until warm weather. But if harvested and placed in the cellar, it soon begins to change. It becomes less mealy, is more heavy, and although it weighs less it is watery. The starch which made it light has disappeared, and has been changed by chemical action into sugar and water. The potato has ceased to be edible, and has become fit for supporting the new life that is about beginning. Then the shoots start and draw upon the tuber for their support. (It is a curious fact that if the tuber, in growing, is exposed to the rays of the sun, the shoots start almost as soon as the potato is ripened.)

As the shoots push out further and begin to give out moisture the tuber shrivels, and finally is nearly hollow, the whole of its interior having gone to the support of the new plant. At this time the roots given off where the shoot came out of the potato, strike off into the soil and prepare to support the life of the shoot. We notice also, that when a potato is cut for planting, the cut surface undergoes such a change after it is planted, that it does not change with the rest of the inside but becomes hard like the skin.

It would seem from these observations that the interior of the old plant is of vital importance to the new, when it is getting settled in the world, and that in the case of cutting especial pains is taken to preserve it from change or loss.

"But we have changed all that." We take the valuable seedling, cut it into as many pieces as there are eyes, plant each detached fragment, (half of which never would have pushed at all, naturally,) in a hot-bed, or in rich soil, raise one hundred pounds out of a stock that should have raised only six or eight, and when we have got the crop we divide that in the same manner.

This may be excellent physiology for the potato, but nowhere in the animal kingdom do we know such an exception to the rule that over-breeding destroys the vitality of the offspring, as well as of the parent, and renders it liable to many and fatal defects.

Now for the fact in support of the theory. Three years ago, when the "Goodrich," cut to death, was passed by for the new favorite, which now is on the down-hill side of potato life,—three years ago we got of a neighbor forty "Early Rose," and planted them honestly, one in each line, cutting them once when larger than a hen's egg, while he, believing that the great mistake of our fathers was in seeding too heavily, cut his after the new pattern. Our lands are hardly a pistol-shot apart, we use the same kind of manure, even the same system of cultivation, and yet he tells me that his do not come out well this year, while mine "come up smiling." "One swallow does not make a summer," nor does one fact prove a principle, but we hope that further experiment may settle the question as to the nature of that difficulty which renders it necessary for us to have a new kind of potato every three years. S.

Stock Department.

IMPORTATION OF SHORT-HORN CATTLE.

Several weeks ago a pair of short-horn heifers were shipped from this port for Baltimore, which had just been imported from England by C. E. Coffin, Esq., of Muirkirk, Prince George's country, Maryland, to form part of his herd, which has no equal, it is said, in that or any adjoining State. It is composed of thirty-eight animals of the best blooded pedigrees, and many of his cattle have taken valuable prizes at shows in Virginia and elsewhere. Mr. Coffin is a native of Boston, and yet a young man, but already he has acquired the credit of being one of the most enlightened and distingutshed cattle improvers in the United States.

Portulaca, one of Mr. Coffin's imported heifers, red colored, and just two years old, probably could not be matched for beauty and symmetry anywhere. She was bred by Mr. J. Christy, Chelmsford, Essex county, England. Her sire is Duke of Grafton numbered in the English Herd Book 21,594, and her dam Primula won four first prizes at the Essex County Show as a calf, a yearling, a two-year old, and a cow. She is descended through a long line of good blood from Mr. Allison's Red Rose by Mr. Booth's Columella, and the tribe has been located in Essex for years. Her sire, Duke of Grafton, winner of the first prize at the Essex Show, was bred by Lord Penrhyn, by Mr. Sheldon's Duke of Geneva, out of Duchess 1st. Primula was by Mr. Greenfell's Victor, whose sire was of the Barmpton Rose or Butterfly blood, which pedigree cultivators of short-horns will acknowledge to be quite as good in its way as that of any German princess in existence. The existence of Portulaca promises an era in the history of short-horn culture in America.

Belinda Oxford, the other heifer, is of the same strain of family blood, but not so rightly an animal. She is twenty-one months old. Her sire is Brockley-Oxford, 25,688, and Pheasant, her dam, of the Thorndale stock, so well known and so highly prized in the United States.

The Poultry Yard.

ACCOUNT WITH THE HENS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I enclose you a statement of my poultry account the past year. I may say, at the outset, it was not profit, but the luxury of fresh eggs, and the diversion of the care of a flock of fowls, that led me to the experiment. I began with a dozen Light Brahmas, eleven pullets and a crower, and find the debit and credit of the account thus:

	Cr.
By 27 fowls on hand, Dec. 30, 1871	$27 00
" 15 fowls sold	12 45
" 14 chickens used in family	12 12
" 46 dozen eggs used in family	18 40
" 40 dozen sold	16 00
" 3 dozen eggs on hand	1 35
" 6 bushels grain on hand	4 50
Total income	$88 82

	Dr.
To 12 fowls, Jan. 1, 1871	$18 00
" 6 dozen Eggs on hand, Jan. 1	2 70
" 1 bushel grain on hand, Jan. 1	1 00
Expense of keeping as follows:	
" 12 bushels meal	11 15
" 14 bushels corn	12 16
" 8 bushels oats	5 10
" 2 bushels wheat	2 40
" 60 lbs. scraps	1 20
" Expressage, surplus, plucks, etc	2 85
Total expense	$56 57
Net gain	$42 25

I regard the Light Brahmas as an excellent variety for eggs in winter, early and hardy chickens. My fowls have a variety of grain, ground shells, fresh water daily, with ashes to dust in, hay to pick, and general quiet and comfort, with some range for exercise.

Yours truly,

A YOUNG SUBSCRIBER.

Brighton, Dec. 30, 1871.

COST OF FOOD FOR HENS.

Repeated experiments by ourselves and others show that one bushel of corn per year is sufficient to keep one fowl which runs at large, in addition to the other things obtained by foraging. Hens that are shut up should be allowed no more grain than those at free range, but they should be given grass in summer, mowed often so as to be kept short and tender, and in the winter raw cabbage or broiled potatoes, or fresh vegetables of some kind. Also as an equivalent to the insects they are deprived of by confinemnt, give a small daily ration of animal food, such as sheep's lights and livers, either raw or cooked, finely minced; or, which are the cheapest and come ready cooked, chandlers' scraps crushed. The value of a year's allowance of vegetables and meat per head will be just about equal to one half a bushel of corn. It will generally be found that at times, or in parts of the country, when or where corn is remarkably cheap or dear, the price of potatoes, etc., and of animal food also, will be correspondingly high or low, so the above estimate is of wide application.

Therefore the price of one bushel of corn represents the keeping of a fowl running at large, and fifty per cent. added to this is the cost in the case of confinement. We are speaking of a breed of average size and appetite. It is not to be expected that a Cochin and a bantam will prove equal in feeding capacity. A great yield of eggs is accompanied by a great consumption of food; hence, fowls of prolific breeds may, though of small size, eat more than large hens that lay sparingly. Also a breed which like the Brahmas, tend to fatten, will, if given all they eat, consume more in proportion to their size, when not laying, than a less plump variety like the Spanish will under the same circumstances.—*Prairie Farmer.*

THE "DOUGLASS MIXTURE" FOR FOWLS WHEN MOULTING.—When fowls are moulting, it is good to give them a chalybeate tonic in the water given them to drink; it will assist them greatly through this the most critical period of the whole year. This mixture is made in the following proportions: Half a pound of sulphate of iron and one ounce of sulphuric acid dissolved in two gallons of water; to be added in the proportion of a teaspoonful to each pint of water in the drinking fountain. The rusty appearance which the water will assume is quite immaterial. A little hemp seed mixed with their feed at this reason is also good.—*Canadian Poultry Chronicle.*

The Stable.

STRAW vs. SAWDUST.

I have the honor of submitting to your kind consideration, for publication in your valuable columns, a few remarks upon a subject which has caused serious consideration and controversy in some European racing communities, and as a heading I shall designate my subject "Straw vs. Sawdust." It is about four years since my attention was directed to the great advantages of straw as a bedding for horses during a season's training in Belgium, and the learned physiologists of the day, including the late Sir Benjamin Brodie, Sir James Paget, Professors Varley, Simpson, Spooner, and others equally competent to judge, bore such testimony as to the injurious effect of the chemical changes taking place in moist sawdust, that little scientific doubt can remain as to the practical wrong in using it, where straw of any kind can be got. As this matter seems not to have been commented upon in America by either veterinary surgeons or trainers of horses, I humbly crave permission to mention a few physiological and chemical facts dependent upon sawdust as a bedding. In the first place, it will be admitted that where there is wet, disintegrated vegetable matter (especially in such small particles as sawdust) chemical changes take place very quickly, and certain acids are formed, such as tannic, sulphuric, and acetic, which are not only in themselves injurious to the horny substance of horse's hoofs, but create still further chemical changes with other agents, so that an unhealthy miasma exudes and pulmonary and gastric diseases are caused. But the wet sawdust is not alone faulty; dry sawdust is equally hurtful, for horses when snorting, with their heads down, cannot fail to deposit small particles in the air passages of the lungs by inhalation, nor can they escape the dust falling upon the conjunctive of the eye—in the one case setting up inflammation of the lungs, in the other an inflammatory condition of the eye and its coverings, commonly called ophthalmia. I do not intend now to constitute folly upon the many objections indisputable to the use of sawdust as a bedding. My object is to call on the attention of the experienced veterinary surgeon and trainer that the grave importance of such a subject should no longer go uncommented upon. My experience (so far as questioning those using sawdust is concerned) convinces me that nothing can be adduced in its favor beyond temporary economy, which too often terminates in almost endless expense, and I cannot believe that sawdust will be continued to be used in stables, where the interior economy of a training establishment is understood.

Straw, which is equally soft and much warmer, upon which chemical changes take longer to mature, and when matured are harmless (although a scarce and expensive bedding) is far preferable, because "condition," the mainspring of success, is greatly facilitated by its use, assisting, as it does, in many functional irregularities, and even when straw is acted upon by urine a harmless drug is formed which passes off in ammoniate, leaving but an ammoniacal fume, objectionable to neither man or beast.

I am acquainted with many racing stables in England and other parts of Europe, and can say, without fear of contradiction, that where sawdust was generally used it is now vigorously condemned. Opinions may differ, but seventeen years' experience has taught me to use straw or nothing. There are other good reasonable objections to sawdust, but those I have mentioned are so evident that it would be useless to make further remarks.

Trusting that I am not occupying too much of your space, I am, sir, yours, &c.,

HOTSPUR,

Graduate R. S. C., England.

Turf, Field and Farm.

MASS. CHEESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

This Association will hold its 7th Annual meeting at New Braintree, on Tuesday and W

MASS ACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE----BOSTON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1872.

have not the means to enable them to decide the question. The great majority keep no accounts, and hence can say nothing reliable as regards profit and loss.

A system of accounts, such as every tradesman *must* keep, in order to know where he is, would show farmers where they suffer many leakages in their business which they would quickly stop, if they only *knew* of their existence; and on the other hand they would learn that certain departments of a mixed farming give much better returns than others.

But more than this, men would not be induced to go into the business, from partial and one sided statements; nor would others be inclined to form erroneous opinions in regard to the pecuniary results of this great department of human industry.

Give us, then, the results of every department of farm labor, that we may see the footings of the whole, before you undertake to say yes or no to the question, "Will Farming Pay?"

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, FEB. 17, 1872.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION.

The highly important assemblage of men foremost in the agricultural institutions and interests of the Union is in session at Washington at the time we go to press, and an account of its deliberations must therefore be deferred to our next issue. It is enough to say that the representatives of all the leading State Agricultural Colleges, State Boards of Agriculture, State Agricultural Societies, and State Horticultural Societies, are present by their secretaries and other officers, two delegates at least from each organization having been invited. The Massachusetts Agricultural and Horticultural Societies are present by their leading men, and so is likewise the New England Agricultural Society. It is to be a general reunion of all the recognized forces of Agriculture at the national capital. The idea of the Convention was based on the grant made by Congress, in 1862, of a certain portion of the public lands to each State, in the ratio of population for the purpose of establishing Agricultural Colleges. The national government having stimulated the States in the great agricultural work by such a generous appeal, it is eminently fit that the States should now return to Washington and report what they have so far done in response to such an offer.

New England is feeling awake to her responsibility and interest in this work, as she duly shows by the number and character of her representatives in the Convention. Her voice will be listened to with great deference in this conclave of distinguished agriculturists from every part of the Union, and her influence in council, we may prudently affirm, will not be second to that of any other section of the country. She sends her best men to speak for her at Washington, and to bring back the results of this grand conference of agriculturists. An assemblage like this is prophetic of far more than the triumphant advancement of the noble interest to which we are devoted. It recognizes the broad truth that agriculture is the true bond of Union, and the firm basis of national growth and prosperity. When this is said we have touched the very bottom of the subject. Proud as we all are, and deservedly so, too, of the achievements of our own section in this great field of industry and enterprise, our common sentiment of satisfaction be comes immensely lifted up and expanded by entering into close relations agriculturally with the rest of the country. It is a vast field that is to be occupied, and none but true men and devoted are entitled to a place in it. We of New England shall multiply our powers and greatly magnify our influence, by engaging earnestly with all the other sections and States, in a work that has for its purpose nothing less than the most perfect cultivation of the country and civilization of its people.

THE EDUCATIONAL BILL.

The bill debated and passed in the House for the appropriation of the proceeds of sales of public lands for the purpose of the education of the people is one of the most beneficent measures ever considered by Congress. It was opposed on constitutional grounds by a number of the members, and in fact that seemed to be the principal argument used against it. The purpose and scope of the bill, however, must approve themselves to all. It is to extend to all as far as it is operative, the means and facilities of a general public school system over the whole country. It was introduced by the committee on education, and earnestly advocated by all its members, as well as by other prominent gentlemen. The revenue thus far derived from public lands has been about thirty-five million dollars, and the annual receipts from that source are large. By its provisions the cause of education will be immeasurably advanced and stimulated throughout the country. The bill declares in its first section that the net proceeds of the public lands are hereby forever consecrated and set apart for the education of the people. The second section provides that the bill shall not affect the homestead or preemption laws, nor limit the power of Congress over the public domains, nor interfere with the granting of bounty land to the soldiers of the late war. One half the proceeds are to be invested in government bonds for a perpetual fund, the other half is to be apportioned by the commissioner of education, on the basis of the population of the country between the ages of four and twenty-one years, as ascertained by the decennial census. For the first ten years, however, the apportionment is to be made upon the basis of the ascertained illiteracy of the States. This clause it is supposed will carry the largest portion of the fund into the southern States for the time it operates. And a sum not exceeding fifty per cent. for the first year, or ten per cent. in subsequent years, may be used to maintain schools for the education of school teachers.

The conditions on which the States shall receive their share of the fund are carefully guarded. No State can have a share until its legislature shall have made provision for the free education of all its children between six and sixteen years, nor until it shall have applied all moneys previously received according to the law. A further condition is that the proper officer of each State shall each year make full reports to the government of the number of free schools, teachers employed, number of children taught, the attendance of the children, and the amounts appropriated by the State for maintaining free schools.

The bill it will be seen does not give the government any control over the schools systems of the States, nor does it enter upon any system of meddling with a subject which has been supposed to belong exclusively to the States. As far as it is carried out it will have a tendency to prevent the practice too common heretofore, of making questionable grants of public lands; and as to the principle of the thing, it is only following out on a large scale and as a permanent system, the precedents of grants heretofore made of public lands to States for the promotion of educational purposes. The agricultural colleges now in existence have been founded principally upon grants of lands made by Congress, without question as to their constitutionality, and other educational objects have been promoted and assisted by similar grants. If this bill passes the Senate and becomes a law, it will be an era in our national progress. It will be the strongest incentive to the general introduction in all the States of the New England system of free education to all.

THE WASHINGTON TREATY.

The diffeussion as to the claim for indirect or consequential damages made in the case of the United States before the Geneva Arbitrators, has been kept up, principally on the other side. In Parliament it has been made the subject of an attack on the ministry. In Congress however little has been said except in regard to a resolution of inquiry. We presume no one expects the arbitrators to allow any such claim as made, and so why all this trouble about it? The English seem to feel that there is some danger of their being heavily muleted, and claim that the terms of the treaty exclude their consideration. We on the other hand decline to withdraw our statement on the arrogant demand of the English press, but propose to insist firmly on its going in, and let the tribunal decide, as that is what it is constituted for.

Our minister, Mr. Schenck, has telegraphed a copy of the Queen's communication to the United States Government, mentioned in her speech in Parliament, relative to the claim for consequential damages in the case before the Geneva Arbitrators. The Queen's communication is very brief, expresses unbounded friendship, mentions several unimportant errors or irregularities in connection with the arbitration, and then, without seemingly attaching great importance to the subject, calls attention to the fact that our Agent has made a claim for indirect or consequential damages. The communication is exceedingly diplomatic in its character and cautious to a degree. No appeal is made for reformation of the treaty or of the case. No appeal is made for any remedy, but the object of the communication is evidently simply to command a reply from the United States Government.

Mr. Edmunds of Vermont, in some remarks in Congress, stated our position.

I think the people of this nation when they surrendered what they considered a matter of national honor and national right, which ought not to have been submitted, as they thought, to any arbitration whatever except themselves, were making a great concession in the interest of peace between nations. This treaty, which we are told by the newspapers and reports is under discussion with a review to its revision, was the product, so far as we are concerned, of this desire for peace. Every word of this treaty, from the beginning to the end, shows that in that hot period of the United States had given up what they considered valuable rights and privileges in the interest of arbitration between nations for the settlement of their disputes, so that this treaty, which it is now said the Government of Great Britain proposes to revoke—or as the newspapers perhaps more properly would characterize it, repudiate—is the product of large concessions on our side. It is stated in the newspapers, as we all know, that the ground of the proposal to repudiate is that the terms of the United States offered under the treaty to the arbitrators is one which makes pretensions for damages that we have no right to make. That is to say that our claim for consequential damages for acts of British cruisers, called Alabama claims, are not claims which the treaty will fairly embrace, and are not those, therefore, which ought to be allowed—one of the very questions which you might suppose would be proper for that tribunal to try. That was the object for having the tribunal, to try and decide something.

We find the treaty itself, which is perhaps the best evidence of what parties intend to submit, viz., Article I. Whereas differences have arisen between the Government of the United States and the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, and still exist, growing out of acts committed by the several vessels which have given rise to the claim generally known as Alabama claims, that Her Majesty's Government are willing to express in friendly spirit her regret for the unfortunate occurrences, which I need not repeat. Now, in order to remove and adjust all complaints and claims on the part of the said United States, and to provide for speedy settlement of such claims, which are not admitted by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, the high contracting parties agree that all said claims growing out of acts committed by the aforesaid vessels, and generally known as the Alabama claims, shall be referred to a tribunal of arbitration. Here then, Mr. President, you have in express language, in the treaty itself, the statement that all our complaints and all our claims which are set up as growing out of the acts of these cruisers, has in the necessary and natural consequence, of as well as the acts themselves, not for the acts of cruisers, but growing out of those acts as a consequence, should be submitted to this tribunal of arbitration and decided upon the principles fixed for their discussion.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

The legislative committee on education has given a hearing on the petition of a number of gentlemen whose names alone are a guarantee of the importance of the subject, asking that cities may be empowered to appropriate a portion of the money raised for educational purposes, for the establishment and support of industrial schools. Our system of public education is well enough as far as it goes, and the experiment of devoting a part of the school hours, in the higher classes, to training in some mechanical or industrial arts, is worth trying, and if the power is given, it would be easy to find the way to carry out the details of a plan to make it effective. The children of the rich and poor alike should come under the influence of this instruction. Such a course, properly carried out, would be a step towards supplying the great demand for skilled labor, so necessary to the development of the resources of the country. That our system of education is capable of the enlargement and expansion contemplated, there can be no doubt. It has been tried to some extent in England with favorable results.

The studies of political economists, and all statistics prove that the wealth of a nation depends, in a great degree, upon the amount and extent of skilled industry among the people. We have professional schools, scientific schools, agricultural schools; and we want to see in every city, and perhaps town, in the State, the means furnished for every child to obtain at least the elements or beginnings of some branch of industry which may fit him to become a more useful and valuable member of the community. Let Massachusetts take the lead in this matter.

A Breeze from Canada.—The sudden gust of wind from Toronto and other quarters of the Dominion is so unexpected that it all but takes one's breath away. Why or wherefore our neighbors on the north should have worked themselves into such a passion over the excited utterances of the English press passes ordinary comprehension. If they could have their way, it looks now as if they would come down on us out of the cold wilderness of the higher latitudes like a pack of ravening wolves. Already they warn us of ports blockaded vessels of war sunk, and merchant ships captured and released on bond. If we are to believe them, our seaport towns and cities are already bombarded and burned, and devastation marks the outer line of our past prosperity with its wide swath of blackened wrecks. This, too, from a people whom a slight Fenian irruption throws into a perfect fever, and who cry for help whenever a stray fisherman from Gloucester happens to get over the three mile forbidden line! It excites a smile.

A Rather Nice Question.—A clerk in the Boston Post Office has been detected in abstracting money from letters, and in the course of less than three years has taken over thirty thousand dollars. He invested his stealings so savingly that nearly the whole sum has been recovered by the officers, and taken possession of by the Postmaster. So far, so good. But now arises the question, into whose hands is that considerable amount of money to go? The owners of it are probably past finding out. It was always taken from packages of letters passing through the Boston office, never from the local mails; that only makes the right ownership still more difficult of discovery. The money assuredly does not belong to the Government; its duty was simply to carry it safely to its destination. Here is a very nice point to settle, viewed on any side; but while considering it, it is to be hoped that the thief will not be overlooked and escape the punishment he so richly deserves.

The Small-Pox.—The officers of the New York Academy of Medicine have issued a carefully prepared address to the public, in which they go over in review the history of vaccination, and demonstrate the necessity for a thorough exercise of that efficient preventive against the awful ravages of small-pox. This loathsome disease has got so strong a hold in the country, scattered as it is from one end of it to the other, that there is no other way to root it out but by resorting to vaccination; and all classes of people are warned and urged to apply to the proper quarter without the least delay, to be provided with the protection that has become so necessary. We trust these words will not be without their effect wherever they may be heard or read.

The International Jubilee.—Mr. Gilmore's newer and nobler project is now receiving the substantial support of our citizens, in the shape of a guarantee fund which will surely make it a triumphant success. It will inevitably collect in Boston an immense concourse of people, not only from every part of the country but from every quarter of the civilized globe. Its tireless projector has searched up and down among European courts for resources on which he may rely in this stupendous musical venture. He presumes it is no respect in affirming that it will present such a mass of attractions in a single view as the world itself never before looked upon. More than this, it well do a greater work for practical international harmony and good will than all the treaties and protocols that can be written. The prospects are now good for a gathering in Boston, in June, that will throw all similar past achievements in the shade, and advertise Boston enterprise and pluck to the uttermost ends of the earth.

Boston's Growth.—The continued and rapid expansion of this city is a standing theme of surprise and admiration. The schemes on foot and in progress which betoken its solid growth are numerous and extended. Avenues are opened, streets are being widened and cut through, flats are filling, railroads are in process of construction at their termini, elevators for handling grain are building, wharves are being improved, depots are being re-established on a larger scale, new and more expanded facilities for local transit are multiplying, stores are pushing dwellings farther out of the centre of the city, and the suburbs are being annexed, and built over and populated with wonderful rapidity, so that it seems as if a miracle was being wrought. And this is sustained by a substantial increase of trade and a general business, by a vastly greater volume of exports and imports, and, by every proof that can be furnished, of a healthy, vigorous, municipal condition.

Stealing a Library.—The case of the young man Morgan, in Cincinnati, who has been arraigned for stealing books from a public library of that city, is not particularly new as an occurrence among men; yet it sets forth in a striking manner the kleptomany that runs riot in certain natures, and too commonly where books are exposed for handling. In a great many instances men carry off valuable books under their coats who never intend to read them, but merely want to feast their eyes on them as they stand ranged on their shelves. Books are for their eyes a treasure. One would think that those into whose natures had once entered the soul of good and sweet reading would be above such a new temptation; but there is no accounting as yet for the strangeness to be found in the human character.

Two Mischief Makers.—All this trouble about the Treaty springs from the jealousy existing between Disraeli and Gladstone. The Outs are bidding against the Ins. If Disraeli can so work up popular prejudice as to drive his opponent from power, his object will be accomplished. And Gladstone has shown himself so timid in the face of the outside storm, that he has let fall expressions on the floor of the Commons that carry with them an official meaning, and therefore become excessively mischievous. It may lead to the breaking up of the Court of Arbitration. All for party politics! All that one man may crowd another out of place and get into it himself. Disraeli is desperate. He cares nothing for the Treaty, nor for anything else but the chance to recover power. It is pitiful to think of the vast risks that ambitious politicians are willing to run.

A New Nose, Sir!—A genius somewhere has entered on an entirely novel enterprise, and should make a round fortune by it if he can only obtain enough popular support. He offers to take people by the nose and reshape that inestimable feature of the face according to the desire of its possessor. If the owner of a pug would have it made over into a Roman, all he has to do is to put his nasal organ into the gentleman's vice once a day, and submit to a gentle but firm pressure to correspond to the form of his particular vanity. And so a decided turn-up can be renewed in the shape of a Grecian; and the bulby nose that marks the plebeian can be made over into the long, thin nose in which Napoleon so delighted. Who nose what is to come next?

State Almshouses.—One branch of the Legislature has passed the bill for the abolition of the two State Almshouses at Bridgewater and Monson, agreeably to the recommendation of the Governor. As at present occupied, they are no better than receptacles for young persons who would be placed to more advantage in regular reform schools and compelled to perform useful service. In those two almshouses they only become corrupted with idleness, and the indiscriminate bringing together of so large a number of paupers tends to anything but an amelioration of their condition or a good example on society. The two institutions will no doubt be utilised for reform schools for boys and girls, and two excrescences will then be removed from sight.

Popularity of Boston Clergymen.—Mr. H. A. Brown having promised to give a splendid Dore Bible to the clergyman who should receive the largest number of votes from purchasers of goods at his bookstore, each purchaser of one dollar's worth to have a vote. The list stood last Tuesday as follows: E. E. Hale, 213; Phillips Brooks, 217; John DeWitt, 105; W. H. H. Murray, 218; Wm. B. Wright, 58; Rufus Ellis; 49; R. H. Neale, 47; James Freeman Clarke, 47; Geo. Putnam, 47; Joseph Scott, 67. The following have from two to twenty-five votes each: Geo. C. Lorimer, E. B. Webb, C. O. Means, C. A. Bartol, A. A. Miner, James Reed, H. A. Gordon, R. G. Seymour, Edward H. Kirk, B. F. Bronson, Samuel Longfellow.

Cheap Coal Freight for Worcester.—A petition designed for presentation to the Legislature is in circulation in Worcester, representing that the several railway corporations operating lines reaching from tide water to that city have for many years and still continue to exact exorbitant and oppressive rates of freight for the transportation of coal from the seaboard, in many cases discriminating against Worcester, and refusing to lessen the same, which practice is exceeding detrimental to the manufacturing industries of the city. It asks the Legislature to compel all railroad corporations in the State to carry coal at a rate not exceeding two cents per ton per mile.

The Case of Mr. Hale.—Hon. Chas. Hale, our efficient Senator from one of the Suffolk districts, was lately nominated by the President for the position of assistant Secretary of State, and some charges having been made against him of improper conduct while consul general in Egypt, he has had a hearing, and it is understood that he has shown them to be wholly groundless. The committee will soon report and no doubt is entertained of a favorable result.

The Sale of Trinity Church.—The Legislature last year passed a law authorizing the sale of Trinity Church by a vote of the proprietors, and on a suit brought by one of the proprietors to restrain the majority from acting under the permission given by the law. the Supreme Court have decided that the law, is constitutional, and the proceedings of the corporation under it are legal and valid. The sale will probably be carried into effect the present season, and the property on Summer street be converted to business purposes. The Old South will in course of time have to go the same way for the demands of business.

Love Murders.—Unless the occurrences came under our very eyes, it would be an impossibility to believe such things. The recent shocking murder and suicide in eastern Connecticut adds but another illustration to the list of cases. How can a young man conceive a pure passion for a young lady, and still harbor the fiendish though of taking her life in case she sees fit to decline his suit? Has it really come to that point where a girl has no right to bestow her affections agreeably to her disposition? Must she yield them to whoever chooses to present himself with his sudden request? There is a fatal lack of proper adjustment in the social state when things have reached such a pass, and the stronger minds will have to attend to its correction.

Hartwell Pardoned.—Julius F. Hartwell, formerly cashier in the Boston subtreasury, who was convicted in June, 1870, of embezzling a large amount of the public funds, has been pardoned by the President. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in Lenox jail and to pay a fine of one hundred thousand dollars. The pardon was granted on the recommendation of certain citizens of Massachusetts, in view of the fact that he made full confession of his guilt before the embezzlement was discovered, and voluntarily gave the officers of the government all the aid and information in his power in the investigation of the matter, and in consideration of his feeble health and the helpless condition of his family.

Railroad Horrors.—The annual list of terrible accidents by rail has opened with the recital of the recent wreck of a train, and and mutilation and roasting of passengers in Illinois, and directly after, of another train in Missouri in almost precisely the same manner. These things are laid, at this particular season of the year, to a broken rail, for which the frost is made responsible. It is difficult to say how they can be avoided, except oy replacing the present tracks everywhere with steel rails. But one thing is very certain: some better and safer means can be devised for warming cars than the present fire traps, which are sure death to those who may be caught near them in a catastrophe.

The New York City Frauds.—The grand jury in New York have been in session some time on the complaints brought before the parties responsible for the enormous frauds upon the city treasury. They reported on Saturday indictments against weed and Mayor Hall and others. They say in their report that the evidence before them shows that twenty million dollars have been plundered from the treasury by the ring. Mayor Hall came into court and pleaded to the indictment and demanded an early trial, which was set down for next Monday. The charges are merely for neglect of duty, and it is not alleged that he participated in the plunder.

Assassination of Earl Mayo.—A report has reached London that Earl Mayo, Governor General of India, has been assassinated. Later intelligence confirms the report. It occurred on Feb. 8, while he was inspecting a Burmese fort with his staff. The assassin is a Musaulman convict. He broke through the surrounding officers' guards and staff, drew a dagger and stabbed Mayo twice in the back. Death was instantaneous. The news has created consternation in the House of Commons. The deceased statesman, previous to his appointment as Governor General of India, held a portfolio in the British Cabinet.

HEALTH OF THE REV. MR. ALGER.—The many friends of the Rev. W. R. Alger will doubtless be glad to learn that his health, since his arrival home, has been steadily improving, and that in the opinion of his medical attendants he is now both mentally and physically well. His insanity has never been of a violent nature, tending more to delusions and visionary schemes, and the symptoms of the voyage left him in a bad state of bodily debility. Under the efficient treatment at the Somerville Asylum, he has rapidly recovered, and is allowed to walk unattended within and without the grounds, and his wife visits him at regular intervals. The only reason now assigned for his detention is that his mind needs time to recover the strength necessary for study, or even the strain which would be put upon it by the constant repetition of well meant friendly questions. It is quite probable that as soon as the weather becomes more settled he will take a trip to different parts of this country, in the hope that a succession of novelties will refresh and invigorate his always active mental faculties.

CULTIVATION OF FLOWERS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

The love of flowers by our people has increased to such an extent that the demand cannot be supplied at high rates. The Germans as a class have proved our most successful florists, and from them we will suggest some of their results, as they with small beginnings grow to be wealthy in a short time. One of the most noted cases of prosperity is that of the Wiegand Bros. at West Hoboken and Secaucus. But a few years ago they hired one acre of ground on the old De Motte estate, among the rocks, with a small house thereon. Rocks were blasted out from a part to build their green houses, and the whole acre was soon covered with greenhouses. As growers of roses they have no superiors, and the writer offered them $1,000, for a single running rose bush or tree transplanted to his own greenhouse and was refused. During the season of roses the sales from the West Hoboken houses average 1200 buds per day, $12.00 per hundred, and at festival days and holidays the buds are sold as high as one dollar each. From all this income, they have purchased a small farm at Secaucus, and here erected eleven additional houses and filled them with plants.

To these results we call the attention of the city resident, showing that he can turn producer as well as consumer. By judicious management one acre of ground will supply the requirements of the family, and many a family are supported out of the sales of a single greenhouse. To the business man, (wearied with the cares of business,) it opens a new field of exercise and attention that will exercise the body and rest the mind, while the children are growing up to be florists and producers, with glowing health and brilliancy of mind, the result of reading practical works instead of wasting the fleeting moments in fashionable follies. The cultivation of fresh vegetables, the fresh milk and eggs are enough to impart health and vigor. In reality it takes but little time after all to do the work when properly systematized. Don't go over forty-five minutes from your place of business to your house locate near a depot, in a healthy neighborhood, and you will be thankful to get away from fashionable life and heavy expenditures.

Buy or hire on a long lease (the former is preferable) one to five acres, of easy access to your place of business, and start upon a basis of money making, and after plans are well laid, work with that steadily in view for a given period of time. With this amount of land in high cultivation a very large and profitable crop can be daily sent to market, and thus give time and amusement to the children as they grow to be florists. The amount of plants and flowers that can be raised on one acre would astonish many a head of a family who is now grinding his family down to small means and few enjoyments.

A JERSEYMAN.

READ AND RUN.

— President Smith, of Dartmouth College, was once a printer, and thinks all to be better of himself for it.

— Broken rails are causing havoc and death on the railroads this winter.

— Deaths from small-pox still continue in almost all parts of the country, especially in the large cities.

— A pleasanter winter than the present has rarely been known in a generation.

— The committee from Congress that went down to New Orleans to investigate the situation have returned to Washington.

— The various correspondents of the press at Washington have given their annual press dinner, at which many distinguished men, including the President, were present.

— The London *Times* professes to feel very sure that the attempt to settle the Alabama Claims before the Geneva Conference will prove a failure.

— Universal Amnesty must apparently wait awhile longer for Congress.

— Robbery in the public streets and cars has been reduced to a regular calling in New York.

— The London *Times* admits that the American case is stated with unusual ability and skill before the Court of Arbitration.

— Col. Forney has resigned the collectorship of Philadelphia.

— Kansas land frauds have been uncovered to the light.

— There is no likelihood that our Government will alter its position relative to the Treaty of Washington and its claims before the Geneva Conference.

— The exchanges poke a good deal more fun than they need to at the proposed Horace Greely statue. One says a good statue could be made by teaching the Cardiff Giant to sit in a chair and put its feet up on the parlor table.

— Illustrated manuscripts of back centuries are selling at prices in Paris that suggest anything but want of money.

— A new thing in medical history has just come to light in Switzerland, where the physicians in one of the cantons have struck for higher wages.

— A county treasurer and auditor in Iowa who refused to give up their offices, were hung up by a mob until they agreed to conform to the popular will.

— The Emperor Don Pedro, of Brazil is following the customary rounds of dissipation in Paris.

— A committee of the Legislature is to be sent up to the Hoosac Mountain on the annual errand of investigation.

— A fee or table-waiter in Cleveland, Ohio, now receives ten thousand dollars a year as a clergyman in New York.

— The trains are robbed as of old by the Mexican highwaymen.

— Mr. Edward Atkinson pronounces an inconvertible currency "a thief."

— The first balloon has gone up at Hawaii.

— The Elder Peck denunciation of a dozen years ago is being overhauled in Maine.

— The Michigan "peach-belt" has nearly a million of peach trees stuck in it.

— So late in life as this, the Khedive of Egypt is taking his first lessons on the fiddle.

— Dr. Bellows delivered a very effective discourse in this city last Sunday, on Precision in Details, holding that it was indifference to details that wrought ruin.

— The North End Mission Fair is proving pecuniarily as much more successful than was anticipated as can be imagined.

— The town of Wakefield, which is one of our newest civic enterprises, will supply itself with water.

— The Rev. Mr. Alger's health is rapidly improving, and unless some unforseen drawback occurs he will be able to preach again shortly.

— Eighteen heads of families resident on Beacon street have died within a year.

— Busts of the late Col. James Fisk are for sale.

Mayor Hall, of New York, has at length been indicted with the rest by the grand jury.

— The horse and steam railroads are putting on all the new cars they can secure.

— Consumption carried off thirty-eight persons in Boston, last week.

— The State is soon to be numerously petitioned for an appropriation of $10,000 in aid of the Homœopathic Hospital.

— The Boston Hartford and Erie Road is making preparations for the completion of its route to New York.

— The well-known firm of Sweetser and Abbott, carpet dealers, are about to relinquish business.

— The reunions of the resident college alumni at our hotels are enjoyable affairs to those who take part in them.

— Large duty Stone has been before the Maine legislature on the subject of woman suffrage.

— Shocking accounts of murder, as well as of railroad accidents, come daily from the West.

— Gold has stiffened up considerably under the influence of the Treaty excitement.

— The police of New York continue their raids on the concert saloons to no sort of purpose.

— The Moscow *Gazette* discusses the Cataxay case with decided vigor and no little bitterness.

— Maine is considering the propriety of taxing the deposits of her Saving Banks, which amounted in 1871 to nearly twenty-three millions of dollars, one-fourth of one per cent.

— Two millions more of the three per cent. certificates have been called in by the Sec etary of the Treasury.

— A young lad in Ossipee, who had been chastised by his father for quarrelling with his brother, went out into the barn and hanged himself.

— Canada is getting her back up towards the United States uncomfortably high, and she will find it somewhat troublesome to get it down again.

— A woman was recently buried in New Orleans, who had sold candy at one of the street corners for over thirty-five years. She had seen better days.

— After properly holding a grand public celebration over the completion of their dry dock, the citizens of Manitowoc, Wis., went to look at it the next morning and were surprised to find it had all gone under.

— The English Universities find themselves compelled to give up the regular degrees to the "girl graduates."

— Bismarck very kindly offers his services in adjusting the difference between the United States and England. He is ambitious beyond his means.

— The levees and receptions in Washington it is winter are unusually brilliant and well attended.

— A lady, the widow of a Confederate officer from Kentucky, became insane from the loss of her husband and afterwards from the confiscation of his large property, and is now the inmate of an Indiana jail.

— And now the existence of Lycurgus as an ancient law-giver is denied, with circumstance, by a Dutch writer.

— A dress of white velvet has been received in New York as a bridal outfit, from the hands of the famous Worth, of Paris.

— Travellers still continue to experiment at their hotel rooms with putting out the gas on retiring, the blowing out practice being insisted on.

— The idols in India would gratefully receive a consignment of a full line of second hand stovepipe hats.

— They claim, in Hickman Co., Tenn., to have discovered some relics of the famous De Soto expedition.

— The famous Buffalo Bill is engaged to appear in a Bowery Theatre, in the actic character of a scalpist.

— To make a perfectly sure and untransferable thing of it, the members of the Pennsylvania legislature are obliged to have their photographs attached to their free passes. They must look pretty when worn in the hat band.

— Since the Congressional committee visited New Orleans, a crop of duels has sprung up that threatens to exterminate both wings of the legislature.

— They say "electograms" out west, which is stricter English than telegrams.

— Water is at twenty-five cents a premium per barrel, in Springfield, Ill. It is a drug in most places, particularly when poisoned with vile liquors.

— Valentine's Day occurred this week,—a starting point in feathered housekeeping.

— Mr. Beecher in reviewing the case of Dr. Cuyler, did not hesitate to endorse from his pulpit the right of woman to preach the gospel if they felt the call.

— Thiers has been beaten on the commercial treaty question by the French Assembly, and will scarcely consent to be pacified.

— It is denied that Mr. Charles Francis Train is on his way home.

— I was a "blue Monday" in Wall street last Monday.

— A lady was violently robbed on Beacon street, the other day, at one o'clock in the afternoon, by a couple of ruffians who boldly came up and snatched her paras l and card case.

GOLDSMITH MAID'S TIME.—The dispute or doubt and uncertainty among turf men as to the correctness of the record of Goldsmith Maid's time on the Cold Spring course at Milwaukee last September, has been settled so far as possible by a decision of the board of appeals of the American Trotting Association. The time claimed was two minutes seventeen seconds, and its correctness has been sustained as decided by the board, after a full investigation of all the facts of the race. They have decided that the course exceeded one mile in length, that the record made at the time contains conclusive evidence that the mare won the race in three reats, the second one of which was two minutes seventeen seconds, and there is nothing to invalidate the claim. It thus remains the fastest time on record beyond dispute.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The general railroad bill having been amended in the House by striking out the clause referring the question of exigency to commissioners to be appointed by the Supreme Court, went back to the Senate for concurrence. The motion to concur after some considerable discussion failed to pass. The vote was thirteen in favor to sixteen opposed.

A bill has been reported in the Senate to divide the town of Randolph and to make a new town of the eastern part to be called Holbrook. Also a bill to set off the southerly portion of Dedham, the new town to be called Norwood.

A bill has been reported repealing the provision of law allowing the sale of malt liquors.

The committee to whom was referred an order of inquiry whether any of the public funds have been used for the payment of annual dinners for any militia companies, reported, giving a history of the exercises connected with the annual election sermon and of the parade of the Cadets on the occasion and the dinner provided for them; that there is no law authorising the expense of such dinners, and that the cost annually amounts to eight hundred to a thousand dollars. It is also the custom to pay the Lancers five hundred dollars a year for their parade on Commencement day, which it is understood goes to pay for a dinner. The committee express the belief that the reasons for continuing the ancient custom of a military escort to Harvard College on Commencement day, and from the State House to the Old South Church on the first day of the General Court, have long since passed away, and recommend that hereafter the Governor should not be trammelled with the customs, but be left free to order military escorts only on such occasions as he may deem proper. They also recommend that hereafter the election sermon be delivered in the State House.

BANK CASE DECIDED.—A suit brought by the town of Brattleboro' Vt., against Col. S. M. Waite, claiming $25,000 damages on the ground that Col. Waite, as cashier of the First National Bank of Brattleboro, in the years 1864-67, omitted to return a list of the stockholders of the bank to the town clerk, so that the stock could not be set in the list and taxed, has just been decided in the Vermont Supreme Court in favor of Col. Waite. Another suit by the town against Col. Waite, to recover the penalty of $100 in each of the years 1866 and 1867, under the statute of 1865, on the ground that Col. Waite, as cashier, had omitted to make such return of stock to the town clerk in those years, is now before the County Court for trial, a plea that the claims were outlawed having been overruled by the Supreme Court.

THE GRAFTON BANK ROBBERS.—The trial of the Grafton Bank robbers at Worcester terminated last Saturday afternoon, Daniel Dockerty, alias Potter, and Charles Gleason, were found guilty, but in the case of Samuel Perris the jury were unable to agree. The court adjourned as soon as the verdict was received, till ten o'clock Monday morning. Before coming in for instruction the jury stood ten for the conviction and two for the acquittal of Perris. When the verdict was rendered they were equally divided. The case of Gleason and Dockerty will probably go to the Supreme Court on exceptions, the point of the exceptions being that the property stolen was not proved as belonging to the bank. The case of Perris will be tried again at the next term.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

☞ The *Bulletin* of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers for January and March 1872, contains a full report of the second joint convention of the wool growers and the wool manufacturers of the United States, held at Syracuse in December last, and a collection of much other valuable matter to those interested in the subject. It is prepared by John L. Hayes the secretary, and issued from their office, 11 Pemberton Square, Boston.

☞ The *British Quarterly Review* for January is received from the Leonard Scott Publishing Company, 140 Fulton street, N. Y. Its articles are Lanfrey's Napoleon First, Beethoven, An English Interior in the Seventeenth, Century, Catullus and his Translators, Mahomet, The Speaker's Commentary, The Working of the Education Act, Last Words on the Ballot Question, Contemporary Literature. The four English Quarterly Reviews and Blackwood's Monthly Magazine, the best publications in the world in periodical literature, are republished in this country by the above house at the low price of $15,00 a year for the five.

GREGORY'S SEED CATALOGUE.—The circular and catalogue of choice vegetable and flower seeds issued by James J. H. Gregory, of Marblehead, is as complete a list of choice seeds as can be found. The name of Gregory is known all over the country for the quality and excellence of the articles which he puts up. The strongest certificates accompany the catalogue, which will be sent free to all. See Mr. Gregory's advertisement in another column.

TO HORTICULTURISTS.—Attention is called to the advertisement in another column of the eighteenth annual catalogue and amateur's guide to the flower and kitchen garden, issued by Messrs. B. K. Bliss & Sons, 23 Park Place and 20 Murray Street, New York. It is a most complete and handsomely issued pamphlet, and no cultivator can afford to do without it. The firm is one of the most reliable and celebrated in the country.

CATALOGUE OF PLOUGHS.—The descriptive catalogue of ploughs and other agricultural implements issued by the Ames Plow Company, Boston, is one of the best things of its kind we have ever seen. The merits of all the best ploughs are clearly set forth, and it amounts to a valuable illustrated treatise on ploughs and ploughing. It is distributed gratis. See their advertisement.

☞ George F. Wilson, Esq., of Providence, R. I., raised thirty-five acres of corn last season, in the following manner: Twelve acres he manured with six cords of compost, one half stable manure, the other half peat, with one thousand two hundred pounds of bis superphosphate to the acre. Cultivated after the Ross system of cultivation, both planting and hoeing; yield twelve hundred bushels shelled corn. Five acres treated same way but not manured as well, three hundred bushels shelled corn. The remaining eighteen acres which he bought of one of his neighbors, after being planted with hand hoes, up and partly hoed the first time, with $80 worth of barn cellar manure put upon the acre, no superphosphate, and hoed with hand hoes through the season, yielded seven hundred and fifty bushels shelled corn. It should be understood that the land on which the two first mentioned pieces were grown, but a few years ago was too poor for pasturing, and for a particular description of the land, that many of the readers of the *Ploughman* may know what the land was, being formerly known by the name of Seekonk Plains.

WINDOW SHADE FIXTURES.—The establishment of A. H. Knapp, 36 Winter street, is extensively supplied with every variety and style of curtains, shades and fixtures for windows. Attention is especially called to his patented Watch Spring Fixtures. His customers will always be sure of a superior article at the lowest rates. See advertisement.

☞ The Halford Leicestershire Table Sauce for family use, in pints and half pints, for sale by every first class grocer.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Richards' Historical Catechism.

What beautiful place lies directly west of the Common, separated from it only by Charles Street? THE PUBLIC GARDEN.

How large is it? It comprises about twenty acres and is laid out in nearly square.

What is there near the centre that constitutes one of its most interesting features? Quite a large artificial pond where beautiful swans and ducks amuse visitors by their graceful movements upon its waters in summer, and where small boats for a few pennies convey ladies, gentlemen and children around it for pleasure. And here in winter, young men and women spend much of their time in the delightful exercise of "SKATING."

How do pedestrians get over the pond from either side? By a substantial and elegant bridge which spans it near the centre, which cost the city nearly $15,000.

What place in Boston contrasts more strikingly with this modern miniature paradise? The "OLD BUILDING," occupied by GARDNER H. RICHARDS' as a model CLOTHING HOUSE, fe5t17 AT 24 AND 25 DOCK SQUARE. It

FINE CARPETS CHEAP.—600 rolls Tapestry Brussels, cut stocks in our retail department closing out at unprecedented price. Our customers will be furnished quantities to suit for single rooms or entire dwellings, at our new ware house, 76 to 82 Friend Street, second building from Hanover Street, Boston. NEW ENGLAND CARPET CO.

CARPETS AT LOW PRICES.—Ingrains, Three-plys, Floor Oil Cloths, all our stock in retail department for sale at less than usual prices to close the same, at our new warehouse, 76 to 82 Friend Street, Boston, NEW ENGLAND Carpet Co. fe25-4t

☞ Do you want the best Shoe ever made, one that will not rip or come apart? then buy the CABLE SCREW WIRE Boots and Shoes—all have the Patent Stamp. jan13-13t

TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

All good housekeepers use the Crescent Soap for cleaning house, knives, tin, copper, &c. It will leave a polish on the paint different from any other Soap.

For sale by all grocers. dc23-4t

THE VERMONT DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.—Hon. Charles L. Flint, Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture and author of Milch Cows and Dairy Farming, lectured upon the Breeding of Dairy Stock. On this lecture we need not speak. Mr. Flint's reputation as a man of science is world wide, while those who know him more intimately know him as an entirely practical man. He was listened to with marked attention throughout, and at the close

CONGRESS.

IN THE SENATE.

The pending excitement in relation to the Alabama Claims has naturally been noticed in the Senate the past week, and Mr. Edmunds, of Vermont, introduced a resolution requesting the President to communicate to the Senate any information in his possession respecting the alleged intention of the government of Great Britain to revoke the treaty of Washington, unless the claims of our government arising under the treaty shall be presented at Geneva upon a principle and in a manner agreeable to the other party. Mr. Edmunds in introducing the resolution, made some extended remarks expressing his views of the proper construction of the treaty, and discussed the whole subject in a clear and masterly manner, sustaining the course which our government has taken and showing satisfactorily that it comes within the scope of the treaty. Much objection was made to the resolution, and to the consideration of the subject by Congress in any shape at the present moment. It was opposed by Messrs. Morton, Trumbull, and Cameron, the latter the chairman of the committee on foreign affairs. At a subsequent day, the resolution came up again, and was opposed by Senators Sherman, Hamlin, and others. Mr. Hamlin thought that on this question at present silence was the best statesmanship. The resolution in the course of the second debate was modified on the suggestion of Mr. Morton, so as to make it ask merely information respecting the complaint made by the British Government against the case presented by the United States.

The amnesty bill, after a four weeks debate in the Senate, was disposed of last week. Almost every Senator took part in it, the principle debatable subject being Mr. Sumner's amendment adding his civil rights bill. The amendment was adopted on Friday, by a vote of 28 to 28, and the vice-president threw in his vote in the affirmative. The last day or two the debate was very animated, and as the time approached to take the vote in the main question, the interest became intense. The final vote stood 33 to 19. It could only pass by a two thirds vote, and so it failed. All the democrats and eight republicans voted against it. There is no probability of any other amnesty bill passing the present session.

A bill has been reported in the Senate to establish the territory of Ojibway, changing the name to Pembina. It is to consist of that portion of Dacotah lying north of the forty-sixth parallel. The agitation which has arisen against the alleged extravagance of the government of the District of Columbia has led to the introduction of a bill annulling acts for certain large loans, and providing that the debt of the District shall not be increased without the consent of two thirds of the voters.

IN THE HOUSE.

The principal subject under discussion in the House has been the educational bill noticed in our last report. The debate was earnest and general, developing a deep interest in the measure. The bill was amended by a clause requiring that for the first ten years the distribution of the fund shall be made on the basis of the illiteracy of the population of the State as shown by the last census. Another amendment adopted was that the distribution shall be made on the basis of school population. The bill finally passed by a vote of 115 to 95. Sixteen republicans voted against the bill, and five democrats for it.

Much time was occupied in the House last week in a vote for a new drawing for seats, which finally passed on Friday, and the new drawings took place. Mr. Dawes, as the oldest member of the House and Chairman of the principal committee, was allowed to retain his old seat, on the left centre of the hall, that being his choice. Then the members vacated their seats and stood around outside while their names on a slip of paper were drawn from a box by a boy blind-folded and read off in turn by the Clerk. As she names of certain members were called, shouts of laughter went up, and all sorts of jocular remarks were indulged by the others, as it was discovered that those called had been bettered or worsted by the change. It happened that the names of many of those who were most clamorous for another draw were called among the last, and they got no better, and in some instances much less desirable seats than they had before, while some of those who previously had good seats drew back seats.

A proposition has been adopted in the House to instruct the Committee on the Library to inquire into the practicability of arrangements looking to an international copyright law.

A resolution offered that certain ladies might have the privilege of a hearing before the House in support of the right of female suffrage was rejected by a vote of 86 to 96.

The Committee on Ways and Means have been instructed to report a bill repealing all import duties on tea and coffee.

The House has passed a bill allowing defendents in criminal cases to testify at their own request.

THE GENERAL RAILROAD BILL.

The following is an abstract of the general railroad bill which has been before the Legislature, and has been earnestly debated.

The first sections provide that any number of persons not less than twenty-five, a majority of them being inhabitants of the state, may associate themselves together as a corporation for the purpose of locating, constructing, maintaining and operating a railroad. The second section requires a general description of the proposed road to be set forth in the articles of association, its length, termini, name of each city, town and county through which it will extend, the gauge to be either four feet eight and a half inches or three feet; amount of capital stock shall be not less than $15,000 for each mile of road when the gauge is four feet eight and a half inches, and not less than $8 of for each mile when the gauge is three feet, and divided into shares of $100 each. The corporate name shall be one not in use by any other railroad. The Directors must be subscribers to the articles of association, and a majority of them inhabitants of this State. A copy of the articles of association must be published in one or more newspapers in each county in which the road is proposed to be located, at least once a week for three weeks before proceeding to fix the route of said road. A map of the proposed route, with the report of a skilful engineer, based on actual examination upon its feasibility, and an estimate of the cost of construction, are required. The eighth section provides that if the Directors shall fail to agree with the Selectmen of any town or the Mayor and Aldermen of any city as to the route of their railroad in said town or city, said Directors may petition the Supreme Judicial Court to appoint commissioners to fix the route thereof, in term time or vacation, shall appoint as such commissioners three disinterested persons one of whom shall be a skilful engineer, and neither of whom shall be of the Board of Railroad Commissioners, who after due notice to said Selectmen and Mayor and Aldermen, who must have parties and fix the route in said town or city. It is also provided that corporations formed under the law may enter into railroad agreements, unite with and use any other railroad which it may cross or meet, subject to the provisions of law; but such railroads shall not cross at grade any other railroad already constructed without the consent of the parties owning or operating the same, nor shall it be constructed across an existing railroad except in a manner approved by the Board of Railroad Commissioners, nor across navigable or tide waters except with the approval of the Board of Harbor Commissioners, and in a manner approved by said last-named Board. The thirteenth section is one of the most important in the bill to the public, and provides that if any party is aggrieved by the location of such railroad, by reason of its crossing his land in such a manner as to be of grievous damage, when such damage could be avoided without serious injury to others, he shall have the right, within thirty days after having been furnished with the plan and location of the road, to petition the County Commissioners of the county where the land lies, who shall give due notice and hear the parties. And if it shall appear that such location will greatly and unnecessarily damage the complainant, and that the same can be changed so as to avoid such detriment to the land in accordingly. Said commissioners shall hear the parties, either at their usual meeting or at a meeting called by their chairman for the purpose, and shall make and file with each party a certificate of their determination of the premises, within sixty days after receiving the petition. The compensation of said commissioners, which shall not exceed five dollars per day, their necessary expenses and costs of the petition, shall be paid by the corporation, unless the commissioners shall decide that the petition was frivolous, in which case said compensation, expenses and costs shall be paid by the petitioner. Section 15 enacts that if the capital stock of the corporation is found to be insufficient for the construction or equipment of its road, the Directors, upon being authorized by a majority of the votes at a meeting of the stockholders called for the purpose, may increase the same from time to time, to the amount necessary for the purposes aforesaid, a certificate of which shall be filed with the Secretary of the commonwealth. Section 16 provides that if the corporation does not begin the construction of its road and expend thereon at least ten per cent. of the amount of its original capital stock, within two years after the date of the certificate of its establishment, and does not complete and put in operation its road within four years after said date, its corporate powers and existence shall cease. Sec. 17. No other railroad corporation shall subscribe for, take or hold any stock or bonds of any railroad corporation organized under this act, whether directly or indirectly, unless specially authorized by Legislature. Sec. 18. The provisions of this act, and the franchises, rights, powers, privileges, duties and liabilities of railroad corporations established under this or any other general act may be altered, amended or repealed, and the Legislature may annul or dissolve any such corporation.

TREATMENT OF THE SMALL POX.

[From the Prairie Farmer.]

The great prevalence of this loathsome disease in several of the larger cities of the country presumably makes everybody in the country, in or out of the cities, anxious to know all they can about the malady; about how it spreads and why, and when and how it is to stop. New York and Philadelphia have been thoroughly frightened within a few months, and although the disease has not by any means ceased with them, they have settled down to their steady ways again as though their people were no longer in danger of being pitted.

In the management of small-pox, great progress has been made within a century toward rendering it comparatively harmless. Vaccination is now quite generally regarded as essential to any immunity from the disease. Were it not for this measure in our cities today, the havoc by the disorder and the dread of it would probably be a hundred fold greater.

But we do not hesitate to say that the most deplorable fact in regard to it is that worst of errors that one vaccination in a lifetime is all sufficient for protection. Did all the people of this city know exactly how much—how little—protection vaccination affords, this epidemic would be stamped out in one half the time it will now require to kill it.

For thorough protection against small-pox one must be vaccinated as often as every three or four years. Cases by the dozen are occurring which show that it is unsafe to go longer than this without, and by the hundred the proofs are gathering that within this period vaccination affords nearly perfect protection.

There is a popular notion that once in seven years this protective influence runs out, but it is astonishing to see how few people in this great community undergo the operation as often as every seven years; while those who re-vaccinate as often as they ought to hardly amount to half of one in a hundred.

In regard to the matter of vaccinating, two facts should be borne in mind: In the hands of a careful medical practitioner there is very little danger of the operation carrying into your body any stray "bad humors." Be sure the man who vaccinates you is not only careful, but acquainted with the whole subject, and then don't fear to have your arm scratched every six months, if need be.

Then the operation should be made and the process watched in its course by some one competent to tell a vaccination pustule from an ordinary sore. Many people suppose themselves to be thoroughly protected against small-pox when they have only a sore on their arms, not true vaccination.

It is possible to make the vaccination "work" on everybody—or next to it. Popularly it is supposed large numbers of persons are unsusceptible to it; ninety-nine in every hundred of these can be successfully vaccinated if the trial is persisted in, and the fact that two or three attempts fail is very little proof that the person is small-pox invulnerable.

New Advertisements.

Plows! Plows!

WE WILL WARRANT our Doe and Swivel Plows, that were awarded so many first premiums at the trials last Fall, to please any one in want of Plows. We give one of many testimonials that we have received.

[COPY.]

STATE REFORM SCHOOL, Manchester, N. H., Feb. 15, 1872.

MESSRS. WHITTEMORE, BELCHER & CO.:

Gentlemen,—I have for a long time been looking for a reversible sod mill Plow with which I could turn a *deep* flat furrow, and to this end I last season made trial of five different manufacturers and the result is that now I can put into my cheek for the price of your No. A 100, which is proof positive of what my opinion is of the Plow. All the others have been returned from whence they came.

Respectfully E. INGRAHAM, Supt.

Whittemore, Belcher & Co.,
AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE AND SEED STORE,
No. 34 Merchants' Row, Boston.
feb17-tf

Valuable Farm in Danvers AT AUCTION.

Will be sold on Tuesday, March 12th, at 12½ o'clock P. M., all the real estate of Daniel Town, late of Danvers, deceased, situated on Maple Street, consisting of the commodious dwelling, containing 15 acres, mowing, tillage and pasture land of excellent quality, and enclosed and divided with heavy stone wall.

The house is two stories, 32x28 feet, containing 10 finished rooms below the attic, with a good cellar. A pantry, wood shed and carriage house are attached; best of water on the premises. The house has recently been painted and blinded.

The barn is 38x50, erected within 5 years, in modern style, cellar under the whole, very substantial, built.

The buildings are all in first rate repair, requiring no expense to be laid out upon them for years.

The situation is extremely pleasant, being on an elevated plain commanding a fine view of the surrounding country. The location is very healthy, and in one of the best neighborhoods in town. Distance from the depot at Swan's Crossing on the Essex Railroad less than one half mile at which to train to and from Boston stop daily.

All the produce finds a good market in town, milk can be sold at the door.

The above estate is worthy the attention of any person wishing to follow farming, or for gentlemen doing business in the city, or as a summer resort for those seeking there, being about one hour's ride from Boston by rail.

If wished, a profitable business could be done in connection with farming, in taking summer boarders, the house being roomy and convenient.

For social and educational advantages, Danvers is excelled by few towns in the State. The debt of the town is very small, and rates of taxation low. Also, 84 acres of woodland situated in Reading.

Persons wishing to attend the sale can take the train leaving the Eastern Railroad depot in Boston, at 10½ o'clock. The sale will be without reserve and an undoubted title given. A portion of the purchase money, can remain on mortgage if desired. $1,000 to be paid at the time of sale.

For further particulars, inquiries may be made on the premises or of

J. A. PUTNAM, Auctioneer.
Danvers, Feb. 14, 1872. feb14-4t

Small Farm.

FARM of 50 acres in Old Concord. House, 8 rooms with L, and woodshed. Barn, 40x50, new. Old Barn, 18 x30; cellar under each. 8 acres of Asparagus, 1 acre of Strawberries, Raspberries, Gooseberries, Currants, Grapes, etc. Land in high state of cultivation. Owner going West, must be sold.

Also, Farm of 160 acres, good buildings, one mile from depot. Price, $7,000.

Also, Farm of 100 acres, good buildings on elevated site. Price $6500; on easy terms.

Also, Farm of 60 acres, buildings. Farm 3 miles from depot. Price $2,400.

For further particulars, inquire of

SAMUEL STAPLES & Co., Auct's.
Concord, Feb. 13, 1872. feb17-4t

Rochester Commercial Nurseries.

[Established 1830.]

SEEDLINGS our New Circular of Prices per dozen, per 100, or per 1000—embracing all best HARDY TREES and PLANTS—both FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL—besides a select list of Specialities and Novelties. Address,

feb17-4t W. & T. SMITH, Rochester, N. Y.

DARLING'S Ground Bone.

HAVING gained a reputation which is second to none by making a pure article, I offer for sale in quantities to suit purchasers, both coarse and fine Bone as a fertilizer. Bone meal (for feeding cattle). Chicken Bone (for feeding hens), also Bone ground to order in any form for mechanical purposes. It should need no argument to satisfy any reasonable farmer that Bone is the *cheapest fertilizer* in the market, and is what our New England soils need. Sample sent free.

L. B. DARLING, Pawtucket, R. I.
Agents in Boston, Parker & Gannett, Joseph Breck & Sons, Agric Pipe Co., Henry & Co., Whittemore & Belcher.
In Providence, R. I., Wm. E. Barrett & Co., and D. C. Jencks. feb17-16t

Thoroughbred DANVERS ONION SEED.

THIS seed was grown by Mr. Horace Ware, of Salem, from same stock as last year, which gave *perfect satisfaction to all our customers.* We would invite special attention to our selection of GARDEN, FIELD AND FLOWER SEEDS which we import, and have raised expressly for us, making them very reliable.

Whittemore, Belcher & Co.
AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE AND SEED STORE,
No. 34 Merchants' Row, Boston.
feb17 Manufactory at Chicopee Falls, Mass. tf

Probate Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Middlesex ss. Probate Court.

To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, and all other persons interested in the estate of SARAH L. HAVEN, late of Framingham, in said County, widow, deceased. Greeting.

WHEREAS, a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased, has been presented to said Court for probate, by Sarah Lincoln Haven, who prays that letters testamentary may be issued to her, the executrix therein named.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the second Tuesday of March next, at nine o'clock before noon, to show cause, if any you have, against the same. And said petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once a week, for three successive weeks, in the newspaper called the Massachusetts Ploughman, printed at Boston, the last publication to be two days at least, before said Court.

Witness, WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON, Esq., Judge of said Court, this thirteenth day of February, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two

feb17-3t J. H. TAYLOR, Register.

New Advertisements

THE BEST PERIODICALS OF THE DAY.

THE GREAT

English Quarterlies,

—AND—

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine.

REPRINTED BY

The Leonard Scott Publishing Co.,
140 Fulton Street, New York,

At about one-third the price of the originals.

The Edinburgh Review,
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Published Quarterly—January, April, July, October—

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Postage, two cents a number, to be prepaid by the quarter at the office of delivery.

Circulars with further particulars may be had on application.

The Leonard Scott Publishing Company,
140 Fulton Street, New York.

The Leonard Scott Publishing Co.,
ALSO PUBLISH

THE FARMER'S GUIDE

To Scientific and Practical Agriculture.

By HENRY STEPHENS, F. R. S., Edinburgh, and the late J. P. NORTON, Professor of Scientific Agriculture in Yale College, New Haven.

Two vols. Royal Octavo. 1000 pages and numerous engravings. Price $7; by mail, postpaid, $8.

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Rare and Beautiful Flowers and Choice Vegetables

Can always be obtained by sowing

B. K. BLISS & SONS,
43 Park Place and 20 Murray Street, N. Y.,
Importers, Growers and Dealers in

GARDEN, FIELD AND FLOWER SEEDS,
Small Fruits, Horticultural Implements, Fertilizers, and other requisites for the Farm and Garden.

LAWN MOWERS

of the most approved patterns.

The Eighteenth Annual Edition of their celebrated Seed Catalogue and Amateur's Guide to the Flower and Kitchen Garden is now ready for distribution, and will be mailed to all applicants, upon receipt of 25 cents; an edition beautifully bound in cloth, 75 cents.

This is without exception the largest and best Catalogue ever published in this or any other country. It contains about 300 pages, including several hundred finely executed engravings of favorite flowers and vegetables, and a beautifully colored Chromo of a group of twenty of the most popular flowers in cultivation. Also a descriptive list of 2,500 species and varieties of flower and vegetable seeds, including all the novelties of the past season, with full directions for culture.

We will send a packet of choice Flower Seeds gratis to persons ordering Catalogues if they will state the name of the paper in which they saw this advertisement.

B. K. BLISS & SONS,
P. O. Box 5713, New York City.
feb17-4t

THE

Massachusetts Poultry Association

Will hold their

FIRST EXHIBITION

—AT—

BOSTON MUSIC HALL,

February 27th, 28th, 29th and March 1st.

Upwards of $2,000 to be awarded in Prizes. Open to all competitors. Rules, regulations and Schedule of prizes can be obtained by addressing Corresponding Secretary Mass. Poultry Association, P. O. Box 2725, Boston.

All entries must be made on or before Feb. 19th. Blanks for this purpose can be obtained by addressing as above.
feb-17-2t

Trees,

FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL,
For SPRING of 1872.

We invite the attention of Planters and Dealers *to our large and complete stock of*

Standard and Dwarf Fruit Trees.
Grape Vines, Small Fruits.
Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Roses.
New & Rare Fruit and Ornamental Trees.
Evergreens and New Plants.

Prompt attention given to all inquiries.

Descriptive and Illustrated priced Catalogues sent prepaid on receipt of stamps, as follows:

No. 1—Fruits. 10c. No. 2—Ornamental Trees, 10c. No. 3—Greenhouse, 10c. No. 4—Wholesale, Free.

Estab'd 1840. ELLWANGER & BARRY,
Mount Hope Nurseries, ROCHESTER, N. Y.
2t-feb17m2-3

Combined

RANGE AND FURNACE.

OCCUPIES the same space as common ranges and heats the room over the kitchen or adjoining it by means of pipes. The kettles used with this range pass all the steam and odors into the chimney.

Best of testimonials furnished.

LINCOLN & ALLEN,
80 Blackstone Street, Boston, Mass.
feb17-6t

Fish Offal

FOR SALE by the car load, (10 tons) at $4 50 per ton.
GEO. M. WONSON
feb17-tf East Gloucester, Mass.

Bone Superphosphate.

FALES' AMMONIATED BONE Superphosphate, *made from best materials and warranted true to analysis,* and second to none in the market.

Whittemore, Belcher & Co.,
AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE AND SEED STORE,
No. 34 Merchants' Row, Boston,
Agents for New England. feb17-tf

Wanted.

SITUATION as a foreman. Understands well the care and management of the gardens and grounds of a gentleman's place. Also the breeding, rearing and general management of live stock. Can furnish the best of references. Address FOREMAN,
feb17-1t* 1297 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.

Situation Wanted.

TO TAKE charge of a farm or gentleman's estate, by an honest, reliable native American family. Has had extra experience in the cultivation of vegetables, and in care of greenhouse. Can give the best of references.
Address, JOHN C. RYANS,
feb17-2t* Swampscott, Mass.

Situation Wanted

BY a practical and experienced farmer to take charge of a gentleman's Farm. April 1st, or the best of reference given. Please address,
T. M. H.,
feb17-6t Norton, Mass.

Situation Wanted.

A PROFESSIONAL, thoroughly experienced German Gardener in all its branches. Can buy out tastefully. May, under some conditions, work on shares.
F. STIELOW,
feb17-2t* Brighton, Mass.

Pure Golden Hamburgs,

LAST Spring and Summer CHICKENS. Eggs in early Spring. Address,
A. R. FISKE,
feb17-1t Wenham, Mass.

W. & T. Smith,

GENEVA NURSERY, Geneva, N. Y.

feb17 400 Acres. Send 10 Cents for Catalogue. 1t

TEMPUS AND NOW is the time to secure all the numbers of FUGIT here of the "STAR SPANGLED BANNER" for 1872, and also the elegant Chromo, "BOUQUET OF MOSS ROSES," all for 75 cents. LAST CHANCE to secure back numbers. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. Now is the time, only 75 CENTS. Specimens 6 cents. Address Star Spangled Banner, Hinsdale, N. H. feb17-1t

500 AGENTS WANTED, Male and Female, to sell two new articles, as saleable as Flour, and needed in every family. Samples sent free by mail, with terms to clear $5 to $10 per day. This is no gift enterprise or humbug, but they are new articles of real merit. Reader, if you want profitable and honorable employment, send on your name and post office address, and receive full particulars, with sample free by return mail. Address,
N. H. WHITE,
feb17-6t Newark, New Jersey.

New Advertisements

SESSIONS & KNOX'S PATENT

HARD STEEL PLOWS,

Embody in their shape the scientific adaptation of natural lines embraced by Knox's Patent, and have extra qualities of hardness, each piece of metal being made by a process that converts about one-third on each side into steel, and allows it to be hardened as much as fire and water can make it, while the centre remains flexible. This gives them a toughness that avoids the liability of breakage so general with other plows, and a surface better adapted to slide through the soil, which reduces the amount of power required and further adds to durability.

These Hard Steel Plows received the highest premium—$30 00—awarded to Plows at the Vermont State Agricultural Fair, September, 1871.

Messrs. Sessions & Knox were awarded the highest prize by the New York State Agricultural Society, October, 1871.

Awarded the highest prize, a Silver Medal, by the New England Agricultural Society, September, 1871.

—ALSO—

KNOX'S PATENT AND IMPROVED EAGLE,

Prouty & Mears' Celebrated Centre Draft,

IMPROVED SWIVEL,

For Side Hill and Level Land that leave no Ridge or Dead Furrows,

Boston Steel Clipper, and Mapes' Improved

SUB-SOIL PLOWS.

Made only by

AMES PLOW COMPANY,

MANUFACTURERS OF

Agricultural Implements and Machines,

DEALERS IN

SEEDS AND FERTILIZERS,

And other requirements of Agriculturists and Agricultural Districts.

Warehouses: QUINCY HALL, BOSTON,

And 53 Beekman Street, New York.

Factories at Worcester and Ayer, Mass.

☞ Price List and Descriptive Catalogue on application.

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TWELVE MUSIC BOOKS
WHICH CONSTITUTE A

Complete Musical Library!

1200 *or more Songs and Pieces for Pianoforte or Reed Organ. Worth from $300 to $400. Sold in book form for $30.00!!*

THE MUSICAL TREASURE. *Vocal and Instrumental.* The most recent work. Very popular.
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PIANIST'S ALBUM. *Instrumental.* Is the same as Home Circle, Vol. 3.
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HOME CIRCLE. Vol. I and II. *Instrumental.*

These fine books give a name to the whole set, which is often called **The Home Circle Series**, all the books being of uniform binding and size, and filled, not with the most difficult or the most severely classical music, but with that which is genial, bright, popular, and fitted for the entertainment of the family circle at home.

Price of each book, $2 50 in Boards; $3 00 in Cloth, and Full Gilt, $4 00. Sent postpaid for the above prices.

OLIVER DITSON & CO., Boston.
CHAS. H. DITSON & CO., New York. 9-17-tf

PUMPS.

The best for HOUSES, STABLES, GREENHOUSES, &c., is the

PEOPLE'S PUMP.

This is a powerful FORCE PUMP, and with Hose attached water can be forced over a common house or stable without.

Many other kinds of Pumps on hand. Also, HOSE, HOSE-PIPES, &c.

Call and examine before purchasing.

H. M. WISWALL,
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WILLIAM PRATT,
WATCH MAKER, JEWELLER,
—AND—
OPTICIAN,
And Dealer in

WATCHES, CLOCKS, JEWELRY, SILVER WARE, SPECTACLES, &c.,

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☞ Particular attention given to Repairing Watches, Jewelry, &c. feb10-13t

WHISKERS! One package of Prof. Hill's Magic Compound will force the beard to grow thick and heavy on the smoothest face (without injury) in 21 days, or money refunded; 25 cents a package, postpaid, or 3 for 50 cents. EDGAR JONES,
feb17-3t Amherst, Mass.

HOVEY & CO.'S
ILLUSTRATED
SEED CATALOGUE
For 1872.

Contains 150 pages. The most extensive and complet. Seed Catalogue published. Sent free to all applicants Seeds Warranted Fresh and to reach the Purchaser.

HOVEY & CO.,
53 North Market St., Boston, Mass.

To Stock and Dairy Farmers!

I OFFER for sale at FAIRVIEW STOCK FARM, near Fitchburg, Mass., a few prices, if taken very soon, two Bull calves, one and three months old, and a number of one and two year old Bulls, all thoroughbred Shorthorns, from fine milking tribes, the use of which will be sure to improve the style and quality of native or grade herds. I have also for sale 15 or 20 females of various ages, of like breeding. AUGUSTUS WHITMAN.
feb10-8t Salisbury, Mass.

Ames Plow Company,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

Imported and American Grown

GARDEN, FIELD AND FLOWER

Seed,

QUINCY HALL,

Over Faneuil Hall Market,

Boston.

A large stock of choice and reliable Seed of every variety, raised expressly by the most experienced growers in Europe and America, and offered at the lowest prices that good Seed can be obtained for.

Farmers, Gardeners and Dealers invited to call and examine. feb3-4e

NICHOL'S
Perfect Self-Governing
WIND-MILL.

FOR LIFTING and forcing water, thrashing and grinding grain, cutting hay, sawing wood, and many other purposes for which power is applied.

It is perfectly *self-governing*, its speed being no greater in a violent wind than in a moderate breeze in which respect it has *no rival*. Can refer to parties in this vicinity and hundreds elsewhere who have the mills in operation. For further information with circular address

GIBBS & GORDON,
Sole Agents for New England States,
No. 69 Sudbury St.

TESTIMONIAL.

MR DEAR SIR:—After a careful examination of your Windmills, I am entirely convinced of their high practical importance. As an attachment to buildings requiring power, such as barns, mechanics' shops, etc., they are very valuable; and they are the cheapest and best means of pumping water for irrigation, fountain heads, and cisterns, that I have ever seen. I am most happy to recommend them. Truly yours,
GEO. B. LORING.
Salem, Feb. 12, 1872. j 427-13t

TRIAL BEFORE PURCHASE!!

THE WILLCOX & GIBBS'

SILENT SEWING MACHINE,

Should be Tested by all before Purchasing Elsewhere.

ITS TWISTED LOOP STITCH IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

(ILLUSTRATED BOOK, 96 PAGES, FREE.)

Machines of other Makers taken in Exchange at their Market Value.

EASY TERMS OF PAYMENT, WITHOUT EXTRA CHARGE, FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT PAY FULL PRICE AT ONCE.

MRS. LIVERMORE'S OPINION

MELROSE, NOVEMBER, 20, 1871.

WM. F. W. NEFF:

Dear Sir—You desire my opinion in brief of the Willcox & Gibbs Sewing Machine. To express my opinion fully would require more space than you have allotted me.

I have owned and used in my family three of the four sewing machines, before I knew of the Willcox & Gibbs. We each consider ourselves about equal in ability to the average of women, but our experience with these machines took us down in our own estimation amazingly. We almost needed a machinist resident in the family, so difficult were they of management.

The Willcox & Gibbs is the first sewing machine which has given comfort and relief to the household; everybody uses it, from sister families, who comes from the barn with grimy cloth and leather to be sewed or repaired, to the Norwegian maiden who has presided in my kitchen for thirteen years, who has crash towel- and oven-cloth to hem.

And what is its greatest charm? It is always ready; it will do anything and everything that is expected to be done with a needle; it is so light, so easily managed and so difficult to get out of order that it is accessible to the whole household. Muslin, lace, silk, cloth, coarse fabrics—it does them all. I need to say the any of these machines in my place continually, for I feared to have any but the most skillful use them; but our Willcox & Gibbs stands down for the use of anybody, as does the plow. I have owned it over four years, and if I could not replace it with another, it may would not induce me to part with it.

Yours truly,
MARY A. LIVERMORE, *Editor Woman's Journal.*

MRS. HENRY WARD BEECHER'S OPINION.

"I have the Wheeler & Wilson, Grover & Baker and Willcox & Gibbs Sewing Machines. I use the Willcox & Gibbs more frequently, thinking it far superior to any other I have yet tried."

Willcox & Gibbs Sewing Machine Co.,
NO. 142 TREMONT ST., COR. TEMPLE PLACE.

CALL AND LOOK AT OUR LATEST STYLE SEWING MACHINE TABLE, JUST OUT.

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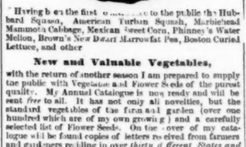

Having on the first of ... to the public the Hubbard Squash, American Turban Squash, Marblehead Mammoth Chinese, Mexican Sweet Corn, Primus in Water Melon, Brown's New Dwarf Marrowfat Pea, Boston Curled Lettuce, and other

New and Valuable Vegetables,

with the return of another season I am prepared to supply the public with Vegetable and Flower Seeds of the purest quality. My Annual Catalogue is now ready and will be sent free to all. It has not only all novelties, but the standard vegetables of the farm and garden (over one hundred which are of my own growing) and a carefully selected list of Flower Seeds. On the cover of my catalogue will be found copies of letters received from farmers and gardeners residing in over *thirty different States and Territories* who have used my seed from one to ten years. I warrant—1st. *That all money sent will reach me.* 2d. *That all seed ordered shall reach its purchaser.* 3d. *That my seed shall be fresh and true to name.* Catalogues free to all.

JAMES J. H. GREGORY.
jan27-8t Marblehead, Mass.

THE

NEW ENGLAND

MUTUAL

Life Insurance Co.

39 State Street, Boston.

Accumulation $9,832,000
Return of Surplus, 1871 ..... $460,000
At risk on 22,000 lives,

$68,000,000.

$20,000 insurance upon single lives.

For information as to rates of premium, modes of insurance, applications, etc., apply personally or by letter at the office of the Company.

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PRESIDENT.

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feb3-52t

LANDS
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LEANDER HAYNES,
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Sudbury, Feb. 7, 1872. feb10-3t*

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The Poet's Corner.

A VALENTINE.

Maiden bonny, blithe and airy,
Joy be thine in February,
Evermore be thine!
How, for thee, the years wont by
In a silvery flight, while I
Sat alone, and ever spied
Of their wings the dusky side!
Drearily they came and went,
Darkening my discontent
Till thou mad'st them shine.

Till thou mad'st them shine, my Bessie,
Maiden winsome, sweet, and—dreamy!
Made them shine with thee!
All the sun is in thy curls,
Lillies greet thee, queen of girls!
Heaven's blue is in thy glance,
All the summer in the dance,
All earth's sweetness in thy breath;
Shadows come along with death.
Bessie, live for me!

Live for me, my heart of lightness,
Filling all my soul with brightness!
Let me live for thee!
Every month of every year,
Every day beyond and here,
Every hour of every day,
All the time, and all the way,
I am thine and thou art mine.
What can part us, Valentine!
Two in one are we.

Hearth and Home.

Ladies' Department.

WHAT AILED LAURA.

What could be the matter with Laura? It was scarcely three weeks since a mutual exchange of vows and engagement rings had rendered us the happiest of mortals, yet I could already perceive a change in her. She looked less radiantly happy, she came to meet me with a slower step, and she declined the old blissful moonlight rambles under the lime trees.

"I fear, darling, you are not quite well," I had suggested, upon first perceiving the change in her; but she laughed and assured me, rather pettishly it must be confessed, that nothing whatever ailed her; that she had never been really sick in her life except with scarlet fever and measles; and that, besides, I need not trouble myself about her, as we were so soon to go to the Springs, where, as the disinterested proprietors assure us, even healthy people grow healthier.

But when the time came for the annual family migration to the Springs, whither, in the character of an accepted lover I was to accompany them, I learned to my surprise that Laura was not going—at least not just then. She would remain a week longer and join us with her friend, Miss Tansy. The reason she gave me for this sudden and unexpected arrangement was, that her wardrobe was not yet complete. That provoking Madame Mollini had disappointed her after all her promises to the contrary, and to go to the Springs without her Swiss polonaise, or the white lace trimming underlying the black on her gray silk, and with all that horrid fulness in the flounces of her violet grenadine, was, of course, not to be thought of.

Others, beside myself, were surprised at Laura's "strange caprice." And I heard Miss Tansy observe confidentially to Mrs. Marmaduke Jones—"Oh, my dear, there's something else, depend upon it. Why, I know positively that Laura's dresses were all completed long ago; for Madam Mollini showed them to Sue Allington the very evening they were sent home. Of course you won't mention it, as Laura was very particular about their not being known, but she's the most *secretive* girl I ever knew; never has a confident, or chats about her flirtations and love affairs, like the rest of us girls. (Miss Tansy was a gushing young thing of only three-and-thirty.) And the idea of her supposing that *I* would believe she had no other motive for remaining behind with that prosy old aunt, when she could be enjoying herself at the Springs!"

The prosy old aunt thus contemptuously alluded to by Laura's friend, was Miss Dorothy Baxter, otherwise "Aunt Dorry;" a nice, sensible, quiet old lady from the country, who had promised to keep house during the absence of the family. They were all very fond of her, and I had liked her ever since, on her arrrival, ste l on her self-invited hands with me as her favorite Laura's future husband, wishing us long and happy lives and yearly increasing affection. Laura had laughed at her old-fashioned congratulations, but I had nevertheless seen the tears in her eyes as she had silently returned the pressure of my hand. And now she was so changed!

The evening before our departure for the Springs, I sat with Laura in the bay-window. She had declined a last stroll with me under the shady limes where our vows had been spoken, and I felt hurt at the apparent insensibility, but thought best to give no expression to it.

"I shall slip down in a day or two," I whispered. "I can manage to find some little business matter to attend to, you know."

Laura looked, I thought, rather startled. "Really, I don't think it would be worth the trouble," she said. "And I shall soon be with you, you know. In a week, at farthest —if Madame Mollini will permit."

Again I felt hurt at the thought of my darling being so willing to give up a week of my society for the sake of the Swiss polonaise and the violet grenadine. *Could* it be that she was growing indifferent so soon? or that she had never really loved me so much as I had fondly imagined? And I began to feel unhappy.

Miss Tansy, who, with some other friends, had "dropped in," was looking over the *Evening Bulletin* which lay upon the centre-table.

"What arrivals to-day, Celeste?" inquired Laura, with a certain interest in her tone.

"At the Haughton House, Mr. and Mrs. Bloomington Wells, (those vulgar *parvenus*, you know, Laura, wealthy dry-salters, or something of the sort, who made such a splurge at the Springs last year;) Judge Jarmington and daughter, (what a pity! she'll cut us all out, with her beauty and her real Paris dresses;) E. M. Lee, Esq., Derryville; (wonder who he is;) Professor C. Howard de Luneville, (what an aristocratic name) New York——"

Laura started up suddenly, caught my eye, and looked down again, while a hot color suffused her cheek. She leaned back in her seat, and with an air of indifference began to turn round upon her finger my engagement ring. Yes, she could do even that now, while I could never look upon the golden circlet on my little finger, her gift, without being sensible of an accelerated palpitation of the heart.

None but myself had observed her strange emotion, unless it might be her mother, Mrs. Fairborne, whose quick eye I had observed wander rapidly from her daughter to me and back again to Laura.

"De Luneville," said Mrs. Fairborne, reflectively; "the Rev. Mr. de Luneville, did you say, Celeste?"

"Prof. C. Howard de Luneville, from New York," repeated Miss Tansy, distinctly.

"Oh, *not* the Reverend Mr. de Luneville. Really there should be more family names invented, people are so liable to be mistaken for each other, from having the same surnames. Why, there was Mrs. Marmaduke Jones, for instance, had a letter sent up by the stupid carrier, directed to Mrs. M. Jones, upon opening which she found herself addressed as 'Dear Moll,' by some creature signing herself 'Yer loving husban', Sol. Jones.' Fancy Mrs. Jones' feelings, with all her aristocracy and refinement."

This artful narrative was clearly designed to attract attention from Laura. I instinctively saw and felt it; and something like an uneasy suspicion and jealousy began to torment my heart. My parting with Laura was almost cold, and I went home wondering more than ever what could possibly be the secret that she was withholding from me, and, as it appeared, from her friend Miss Tansy, as well as people in general.

Laura wrote to me at the Springs—affectionate, sprightly little notes—declaring that she was leading a recluse life, going nowhere and seeing no one, except dear Aunt Dorry; and that she expected to be with us in a day or two. But as she didn't come, I found an excuse for going down to Raveiston, or rather the excuse was given me in the receipt of a favor from a friend, hinting at the acceptability of a trifling loan of fifty dollars or so. Immediately upon receiving which I hastened off in a fit of disinterested friendship; and that evening at nine o'clock found myself gazing upon the house which contained the beauteous form of my beloved.

The drawing room windows were open, and through them I could see that the library beyond was lighted. Could Laura, who had yesterday written that she saw no one but Aunt Dorry, be entertaining visitors at this advanced hour? And as this thought occurred, the hall door opened and a gentleman issued forth;—a tall figure, of which I could distinguish only that his movements were quick and graceful, and that he wore a moustache and possessed a fine, clearly cut Roman profile. He came rapidly down the steps and walked briskly away, while at the same instant I caught a glimpse of Laura emerging from the library. I saw her distinctly in the gas light, and observed that she walked slowly and looked a little pale, and, as I thought, agitated and depressed.

Instead of making the visit I had intended, I returned to my lodging in a rage of jealousy and resentment. Laura had deceived me. She had remained at home on account of this person, and was receiving his visits whilst assuring me that she "saw no one except Aunt Dorry." And I—I was allowing myself to be made a dupe and a fool of by herself and by her designing mamma; for doubtless this stranger was either some rejected lover, too poor to be eligible, or a new admirer, for whom it might be considered advisable to discard me.

"I will see her and demand an explanation," was my decision, after a sleepless night; and I chose the early hour of ten that morning for the interview, in order that she might have no excuse for being out, or interruption from other visitors. But lo! as I turned the corner nearest the Fairborne's mansion, I beheld a gentleman before me—the same tall graceful figure, curling moustache, and Roman profile, of the evening before—ascending the steps with quick, impatient tread, and entering almost familiarly, as the door was opened before he had time to pull the bell. Clearly he had been expected and watched for.

I waited ten minutes—fifteen—twenty—walking up and down, and round the corners, utterly regardless as to what might be thought of me by the observant neighbors. At length my patience was exhausted, and I determined to surprise Laura—to convict her to her face of her falsehood and deception, and force from her an explanation of her conduct.

The servant who answered my summons stared on seeing me, half closed the door, and assured me that Miss Laura was very particularly engaged, and could see no one.

"Take up my card!" I said, ferociously; and the girl, looking a little frightened, obeyed. She had forgotten to close the parlor door, and a moment after I heard Laura's voice from the hall:

"Oh, dear what *shall* I do! I wouldn't have him find the Professor here for the world!"

Enough! When the servant returned with a message from Laura begging that I would come an hour later, I left my card, with a few stinging words inscribed thereon, apologizing for my intrusion on her *tete-a-tete* with her friend; and that evening found me at Long Branch.

But Long Branch was a bore; the beach, the music, the races, the young ladies, were all bores; and two days thereafter saw me, almost against my will, again in Ravelstone. Strange, the invincible magnetism which drew me do t at fair and false deceiver! Strange, how the remembrance of her former sweet smile and winning manner still lured me!

It was a balmy moonlight in June, and my steps were instinctively bent toward the limes beneath whose shade our first words of love had been spoken. Various couples were now promenading the secluded walks; and just before me in one loved slowly and languidly the figure of a lady leaning upon the arm of a gentleman. At the end of the promenade they turned, and I found myself face to face with Laura and her brother Charlie.

"Oh, *dear* Fred!" was her quick, eager exclamation, as she let go Charlie's arm and held out her hand to me. Did I refuse it? Did I, with a haughty brow, pass on in ominous dignity, as I had twenty times resolved within myself to do under similar circumstances! Alas, man is weak where woman is concerned; and I confess that a few moments saw me, to my surprise, walking quietly with Laura on my arm, while Charlie obligingly vanished in the distance.

"I am so glad to see you Fred," said Laura, looking up smiling and blushing into my face. "And now tell me, you naughty man, where have you been, and what have you been doing? And what was the meaning of that extraordinary card which you left the other day?"

How brazen she was, and yet how winning still!

"First, Laura," I said gravely, "explain to me, if you please, the cause of your very singular conduct. Why did you decline seeing me on that day?"

"Why," said Laura, coloring and looking embarrassed, "the truth is I—I was not very well, that morning."

"And yet you could see other visitors," I replied looking full in her face, as she utter I this palpable falsehood.

"What visitors?" said she, looking a little startled.

"Who was the gentleman that called just before me? Also the evening previous?" I inquired, coolly.

The blood rushed to her face even in the moonlight, and for an instant she did not answer.

"Laura—tell me candidly—is that man a lover of yours?"

To my surprise she broke into a laugh. "A lover of mine? certainly not."

"And yet his visits were to you?"

Laura began to look vexed, as well as painfully embarrassed.

"Frederick," said she, "will you throw away your jealousy, and trust me—your own Laura. Will you believe that I really love no one, *no one in the world*"—this with great emphasis—"as I do you?"

I looked down into the tender half-tearful eyes, and on the little white hands clasped caressingly over my arm—and was conquered.

"I will trust you, darling." I murmured, despite the lingering doubt and dissatisfaction in my heart.

And so we walked on, doubtless to all appearance the happiest lovers under the limes that night.

Charlie had come to escort Laura to the Springs; and they left at sunrise next morning, while I followed next day.

For a day or two she was to all appearance everything that a lover could desire; and I began to wonder whether I had not done her injustice by my doubts and suspicions.

One evening Laura and I were loitering about the grounds, amongst a multitude of other people, listening to the music of the band. She was looking very lovely, and chatting gaily to me, when suddenly I felt her start, and the laughing remark died half finished upon her lips.

"What is the matter?" I inquired, seeing her face all scarlet.

"Nothing; let us turn back—there are too many here," she answered hurriedly, but my quick eye following hers, had already detected the cause of her emotion. The handsome stranger of the graceful figure and Roman profile was directly before us; and I had observed, as his eye caught that of Laura, a momentary emotion of his hand to his hat, abruptly checked as his eye fell upon me. He looked studiously away from us, as he passed, whilst Laura did not raise her eyes. All my jealous doubts returned in an instant.

"Laura," said I determinately, "who is that gentleman that has just passed us?"

"Why do you ask?" she returned, a little sharply.

"Because," said I, severely, "it is unusual for a lady to receive a gentleman familiarly at her house, and then ignore him in public."

"I have a right to receive whom I please," returned she, haughtily, "and *you* have none to act as spy upon me, and insist upon knowing all about every person who calls on me in my own home."

"Excuse me if I say there must be something not altogether as it should be where so much mystery is observed," I returned with dignity. "And the conduct of my future wife must be above suspicion or reproach."

Then Laura flared up. The words that followed were not many, but next morning's rising sun beheld me again on my way to Ravelstone, having returned Laura's ring at her own request, upon receiving mine from her.

Two days after, as I paced my room, feeling life to be a dreary desert, and wondering what death could be least painful, there came an abrupt tap at my door, and to my surprise, Aunt Dorry walked in.

"Dear me, how hot it is!" was her first remark, as she put down her huge umbrella and fanned herself with her pocket-handkerchief. "And I don't know either," she continued, "that I am doing exactly what our folks would consider proper in coming here to see you. But I'm an old woman, you know; and, besides, I want to talk with you about Laura."

"I beg that you will give yourself no such unnecessary trouble, Miss Baxter. Fairborne and myself are both perfectly satisfied as affairs now stand between us," said I, with what I intended for cool dignity.

"Satisfied? Not a bit of it," said Aunt Dorry, positively. "You're both as miserable as you can be. I know it from Laura's letter, and from your looks; and what I want is to make you both happy again, as people ought to be, who really do love each other."

"Laura's conduct——" I began.

"Oh, yes, I know," said Aunt Dorry, interrupting; "and I don't much blame you, considering you never understood the cause of it."

"What *was* the cause of it, then? and of the change toward me?—her coldness and indifference—her refusing to walk with me—her remaining behind when the others left—and the visits of this man? Of course, you know all about it, Miss Baxter."

"Of course, and very sorry I was that it couldn't be explained to you. But the truth of it all was simply—"

"What?" I asked eagerly, observing her hesitate.

Aunt Dorry rubbed her nose with her forefinger, as she always did when a little at a loss how to express herself. Then looking dreamily away, she asked abruptly:

"What's the name of that place in England, on the coast, where all the tin things come from?"

"Tin things?" repeated I, wonderingly.

"Yes—pans and cans, and all such like, I suppose."

"Perhaps you allude to the tin mines of Cornwall?"

"Ah, that's the name—Cornwall. And now as to what ailed Laura——"

She looked shrewdly at me, but no enlightenment was thereby afforded my benighted mind. Could Laura by any possibility have an interest in the Cornwall mines, and sustained a loss therein? was the only suggestion that vaguely presented itself.

"What *did* ail Laura, Aunt Dorry?" I inquired, earnestly; "and what connection had it with the Cornwall tin mines?"

"Why, nothing with the mines, bless you; only with the name."

"The name?"

"What's the first syllable of that *Cornwall?*" inquired Aunt Dorry, shrewdly, looking at me with uplifted finger. "Well, it was just *that* that ailed Laura; though she said she wouldn't have it known for the world, especially by yourself. But these dreadful fashionable high heeled shoes, you know."

"Ah-h-h!" said I slowly, as a light broke upon my mind. And the whole mystery of Laura's conduct was explained—all except one point.

"Aunt Dorry, who was that handsome, elegant looking man who visited Laura after her family left home?"

"Professor de Luneville, the famous chiropodist," replied Aunt Dorry, calmly.

Laura and I are now married, and she has forgiven dear Aunt Dorry.—*N. Y. Sunday Times.*

THE INDIAN WAR DANCE.

The melody of the Indian war dance is mystic and mythical. The rhythm is not genuine or real. It is as Dickens said of the Indian generically, a "stupendous fiction."

The Indian hath not music or the appreciation of melody in his soul. I would not therefore affirm that he is "fit for treason, stratagems and spoils," a conclusion at which many not fond of the quaint habits of our Quaker friends might hastily arrive. He is by nature silent, moody and taciturn. He might make a philosopher; he never can become a poet. In glum and spectral silence, his thoughts ever turn to the shadows of the past. The bright sunshine of the future seldom gladdens his dull and dreary pathway. Memory ever drives him back to the graves of his ancestors. Inspiration never beckons him onward to the possibilities of the future. And in this the Indian is unlike most untutored races. Unlettered Homer sang his rude verses from town to town and filled the world with the melody of his music. "Gaily the troubadour touched his guitar," and princes and courts were entranced. Those straggling minstrels, in their wild gypsy way, laid the foundations for modern melody and song. "Let me know who writes a nation's songs," said one who was filled with the inspirations of wisdom, "and I care not who makes its laws."

The Indian race, unfortunately, has no song makers,—none to breathe the melodious inspirations that float through nature, that are heard in mountain torrent and rivulet, and reflected in the quivering leaf and blooming flower. It has been observed that but this will pass better for poetry than fact. Romantic writers, who have drawn roseate pictures of Indian life and the habits and customs of our barbarian brethren, have painted the Indian war dance as something grandly terrific, as well as sublimely beautiful. I do not hesitate to affirm that it is a stupendous fraud!

A stray leaf from my note book will answer for a description of the famous Indian war dance. It was at Fort Smith, in 1865, at the Grand Council of the tribes of the Southwest. Price of admission, a plug of tobacco for adults, half a plug for children; reporters for the press, upon showing their credentials as acer dited correspondents, admitted free. I passed! The grand dance took place upon the plaza in front of the garrison buildings. Two sides of a square were formed of soldiers, and the audience formed the sides, with a large crowd in the windows and on the balconies of the bui dings. At precisely 4 P. M., punctual to the moment, the grand *entree* was made. Twenty stalwart braves of the Osages came marching in, vigorously but vainly attempting to draw music from an instrument that in melody resembled a cross between a cracked fife and a squeaking tin whistle. The others kept up a continual drumming upon a variety of skins stretched across pieces of wood, evoking noise if not music therefrom. Among these fascinating melodies, probably not less than eighty-seven notes could have been indistinctly counted. To rythmical ears, the Osage orchestra could hardly be reckoned a concord. At this fancy dress party, the participants came specially prepared for the occasion. By a carefully prepared mathematical computation I found that their bills at the paint shops considerably exceeded those at the clothing stores. Red ochre was largely in demand. Hardware merchants, with the bedaubed and painted Bedouins of the Plains as their customers, are always insured against loss in pewter rings and brass bracelets. In describing the dress of the dusky participants of the dance, it perhaps is as well to modestly draw about their athletic and naked physical proportions the drapery of silence, only remarking that the toilet worn was eminently primitive and oriental. They seemed in their dress to literally repeat Miss Flora McFlimsey, who had "nothing to wear." Warriors, councillors, statesmen and braves participate in the dance. Here comes Wah-dah-ne-ga, the orator, stately and stalwart, stolid and stoical, sullen and gloomy, with his paint and feathers, and a huge blanket wrapped close around him, nothwithstanding the thermometer ruled steadily at 90°. Twenty huge pewter rings glisten from each auricular appendage. Elegant bracelets of britannia (who used to "rule the wave," and now the dusky mejesties of the forest and the prairie,) circle the tender wrists of the orator, sage and statesman. He comes to the fancy dress party with all the self reliance and dignity of a Roman emperor. Cicero, as he came into the Senate, fresh from the knowledge of the conspiracy of Catiline, prepared to hurl his immortal anathemas at the great conspirator, and abruptly inquiring, *Quousque tandem abutere Catalina patrientia nostra?* did not appear more defiant and self-possessed. Drops of sweat rolled down his stolid countenance thick and fast as bullets and nearly of the size; but he heeded not the perspiration in the midst of the inspirations of the war dance.

Following him comes Ko-ne-a-gla, an Osage brave. He stands six feet four inches in his moccasons, straight as an arrow. He wears a large white blanket with three blue stripes on either side, hanging loosely about his stalwart frame. Eighteen huge pewter rings pierce either ear. He has taken greater pains that the most fashionable lady before going to the most fashionable levee, in preparing his *rouge et noir* for the fancy dress party. All the delicate touches that the brush can effect are visible upon his well painted face. His form is a dead model, loosely looking daub of purple all over the countenance. Around the edges are delicate tinges of blue and white. The hair is shorn close to the head, after the fashion of the most accomplished bruiser, except a small tuft where the cranial development of self-esteem might be located. His head is daubed all over with the reddest of paint. A huge collar of beads and bears' claws is suspended about the neck. A single feather from the "bird that soars" hangs pendant from the top of the cranium, after the manner of the plume of Henry of Navarre. Leggings, gaily ornamented, cover the pedal extremities of Ko-ne-a-gla, and a beautiful buckskin shirt covers the corporeal diversities of the Osage brave. Strung carelessly over his left arm is a huge tomahawk of polished brightness. In its logic there are no "glittering generalities," but the strong, effective *argumentum ad hominem*. One having a surplus of raven locks would not care to cultivate a further acquaintance with Ko-ne-a-gla, though in council he sits solid and stoical as a statute.

All things being prepared, and the tobacco judiciously distributed, the dance, like all things that have a beginning, commences. A half-dozen cross legs and squat in a circle on the ground. A dozen nearly naked athletes, painted in all colors, commence a sluggish movement around the circle, each carrying in the hand a tomahawk, a bow and arrow, or other war like instrument, chanting some unearthly and prosaic dirge that has no variations, and, like the song of "The Miller's Big Dog," apparently no end. By and by there is a quickened movement of the legs, in a jerking and jumping up and down exercise, and keeping time, but exhibiting no sort of skill or variety in the entertainment. There is an occasional whoop and yell, and after several minutes a slight pause, in which the brave makes a fervid harangue, recounting his latest wonderful exploits in the raising of scalps. With significant gestures the trail of the enemy is followed, the descent upon him in ambush or while sleeping upon the open prairie, and his final capture and scalping. And this is about all the famous Indian war-dance amounts to!—MILTON W. REYNOLDS *in Kansas Magazine.*

LUXURIES AND HELPMATES.

A bachelor who wrote to a New York paper complaining that he could not live on $1,200 a year, received the following answer: "It seems to be a common mistake with young men to regard wives as luxuries, which they hope to purchase when in a position to do so. In that case it naturally follows that they regard them as expensive. Now that is the wrong idea entirely. No doubt there are women who look upon marriage as merely a means of being well provided for, but such are in the minority. The greater portion of American girls are willing to be help mates to the men they love." Such words are happy enough to make the types dance.

THE ROTHSCHILD PARTNERSHIP.

The *Overland Monthly* gives an interesting sketch of the rise of the world-famed banking family of Rothschild:

In 1812, Meyer Anselm Rothschild died, leaving to the mighty fortune, of which his wisdom had laid the foundation, ten children—five sons and five daughters—placing upon them the injunction, with his last breath, of an inviolable union. This is one of the grand principles to which the success of the family may be traced. The command was kept by sons and daughters with religious fidelity. Sisters married with unanimous consent of the mother and all the children. Brothers remained in copartnership. Their places of residence, by mutual agreement, became far asunder—Anselm domiciliating himself in Frankfort; Solomon, in Vienna; Charles, in Naples; James, in Paris, and Nathan in London—but their union remained indissoluble. Before 1820, the house had become ubiquitous. Like a net-work, it had spread itself over Europe, and its operations were felt tremblingly in all the great loans contracted by nations. In days anterior to electric telegraph and rail, their couriers travelled from brother to brother. They conveyed the earliest news. Mails were outstripped; government expresses were left behind; relays were ready at every post; commercial dispatches, subvented by public companies, as well as private enterprise, failed in successful competition with the Hebrew firm. Nathan Rothschild received in London news of the result of Waterloo five hours before it was announced on 'Change, and made $200,000 in consequence. During the great revolt in India, Havelock's success, which changed Consols eighty-four to eighty-nine, was know n at the at the counting room in Lombard Street a full day before it reached the Bank of England. Lord Palmerston regretted, in his famous reply to Mr. Disraeli, that Government had to depend for its earliest advices of the attacks upon Sebastopol on "the courtesy of the Israelitish house." It was the same during the Franco-Italian war; it held good five years ago when Prussian legions thundered their triumphal progress against the strong holds of Austria; and it is only yesterday that the Rothschilds discounted in the London market the fatal surrender of Bazaine a full two hours before it was recorded by the telegraphic wires that stretch to the Royal Exchange.

FIXING THE DAY.

BY SHIEL DRUV.

Says Patrick O'Brien to Kathleen Mulreddin,
"Now why won't you be fixing the day of our weddin'?"
Says Kathleen, "Why, Pat, what a hurry you're in;
Can't you wait till the summer comes round to begin?"
"Oh, no, Kathleen," says Pat; "in all shine and all misen
The winter's the properest marryin' saison;
For to comfort one's self on the frost and the rain
There's nothing like weddin' in winter, 'tis plain."

KATHLEEN.

If its only protection you want from the cowld,
There's a country they call the Equator, I'm towld,
That for single young men is kept hot through the year—
Where's the use of your marryin'? be off wid you there.

PATRICK.

But there's also a spot not so frequently warmed,
Set aside for old maids, called the Pole, I'm informed,
Where some mornin' it will be can't make up her mind,
A misfortunate colleen called Kathleen you'll find.

KATHLEEN.

Is it threst'nin' you are that *I'll* die an cold maid,
Who refused for your sake Mr. Lawrence Mc'Quaide?
Thin I think I'll forgive him—for this I'll be bound,
That *he'd* wait like a lamb till the summer came round.

PATRICK.

Now, its thinkin' I am that this same Mr. Larry
Is what makes you so slow in agreeing to marry.

KATHLEEN.

And your wish to be settled with me in such haste
Doesn't prove that you're jealous of me in the laste.

PATRICK.

Well, we'll not my that Kathleen will die an cold maid;

KATHLEEN.

And we'll bother no more about Larry McQuaide.

PATRICK.

But Kathleen, mavrone, shure then weddin's in spring,
When the Long Fast is out, are so common a thing
As the turth on a rick or stones in a wall;
Why, you might just as well not be married at all.
But a weddin', roreker, at this side of Lent,
Would be thought such a far more surprisin' evint;
So delightful to all at this dull time of year—
Now say "yes," for the sake of the neighbors, my dear.

KATHLEEN.

No, Patrick, we'll wed when the woods and the grass
Wave a welcome of purtiest green as we pass
Through the sweet cowslip meadow, and up by the mill,
Where the hedges are white on the side of the hill.
Where the thorn that now sighing a widow's lament,
In a bridesmaid's costume 'll be smiling contint;
While the thrush and the blackbird pipe "Haste to the weddin'
Of Patrick O'Brien and Kathleen Mulreddin."

PATRICK.

Will you really promise that, Kathleen, you rogue?

KATHLEEN.

Whisper, Patrick, the contract I'll seal—with a pogue.
[Kisses him.

ON THE CHOICE OF COLORS.

An upholsterer should be very choice in the colors of stuffs he adopts for different varieties of wood. It is a mistake to cushion a mahogany chair with scarlet. That color is too bright, and the mahogany beside it loses brilliancy, and becomes like walnut wood. Many people, however, who love the color crimson, insist upon putting it with mahogany. In these cases, to counteract the glaring effect of the assortment, it is well to put a black or a green braid on the border where the cloth and the wood comes in contact; or if not this, then an edging of yellow silk, or better still, of gold lace with gilt nails. Those who desire to paper their rooms anew will do well to remember that on red, crimson, and amaranth-colored grounds, *black* looks *green*. In the same way, black upon green loses all its lustre, and *vice versa*. Orange upon red hurts the eyesight; violet upon blue looks washed out; blue upon green looks spinach color by candle light; and gray, as we have already said, when sorted with green, very often comes out pink. In having become a custom now-a-days to print advertisements for dead walls in all the colors of the rainbow we may tell those speculators who are anxious that their puffs should be seen as far off as possible, that the rule to follow is, that in all cases the color of the letters should be *complemental* to the ground on which they are printed. Black on a white ground, violet on yellow, red on green, blue on orange will strike the eye at once. A word now to gardeners. Nothing is less brilliant than flower beds in which the only colors to be seen are blue and white; nothing is more gaudily ugly than a garden stocked with a profusion of yellow and little else. It is very unsatisfactory also to find flowers of the same color but of different shades placed near each other; and all these errors of taste should be avoided. In order that a garden may be showy and attractive, blue flowers should be placed near to dark yellow or orange; violets next to yellow; and red dahlias, roses, pinks, and geraniums, should be surrounded with verdure and white. Ladies, of all persons, are most bound to use taste in their selection of colors, and we must do French women, in particular, the justice to own that they usually dress to perfection. Women, of late years, have made progress in the science or art of the toilet. But still some grievous mistakes are at times committed; and it would be well if young ladies who study drawing, would at times consult their masters on the delicate subject of blending colors. Let fair haired beauties abstain from pink, a color which makes them pale. Let dark-haired maidens take that color, and remember that no hue suits *them* so well as saffron, No color is so well suited to chestnut hair as lapis-lazuli blue.—*Godey's Ladies' Book.*

A PERSEVERING LOVER.

A young lady of Washington, Pennsylvania, became engaged to a young man named Robert ——, in 1846. Her father, however, objected to this match with one of his clerks, and, when the young lady received a tempting proposal from a wealthy suitor, the paternal influence soon effected a marriage, despite the former engagement. In less than three months her husband was killed by a kick from a horse. Robert was a second time left a widower, but delayed the important question until fifteen months had elapsed, when, to his horror, she informed him that she was engaged. In three months thereafter she was married. Two years elapsed, when the married couple removed to Syracuse, New York, where, among the victims of the cholera, when the pestilence swept that city, was the second husband. Robert again sought her hand, and when a year had elapsed, was on the eve of a declaration, when lo! he received an invitation to her wedding. Her late husband's business was found in such a state that, to avoid immense losses, she married the surviving partner. Shortly after she removed with her third husband to Detroit, Michigan. A few years elapsed, when herself and husband were on a steamer that way wrecked near Buffalo. The husband perished, and the wife escaped safely through the exertions of a friend who was on board. His gallantry inspired such sentiments in her breast that she married her brave preserver a few months after her third widowhood. The happy pair removed to Pittsburg, where the husband was engaged in mercantile business. Thither Robert, still cherishing his first love, followed them. One day as he was passing the husband's store he saw a terrible commotion. Rushing in, he beheld the mangled corpse of that gentleman on the floor. A tierce of rice, in being hoisted to an upper story, had fallen through the traps, killing him instantly. Anxiously Robert inquired if any one had been sent to inform his wife, and was told that the bookkeeper had just gone. Robert started for Alleghany City, where the deceased had resided, at the top of his speed. The bookkeeper was just ahead of him, and, from past experience, knowing the virtue of prompt action, and apprehending that the clerk had designs on the widow, he ran for dear life, side by side. The race continued until they reached Hand Street Bridge, when the clerk was obliged to stop to pay the tolls, while Robert, a commuter, passed over without stopping. Reaching the house of the widow first, Robert told the heart rending news, and in the same breath made a proposal of marriage. He was accepted. True to her promise, after a year of mourning, she became his wife. As all her husbands had died wealthy, Robert was comfortably fixed ofter all. This case is a remarkable example of what pluck and perseverance will do for a man, while at the same time it teaches a lesson on the danger of delay.

KICKED BY A MULE.

Jack Johnson had a mule. There was nothing remarkable in the mere fact of his being the possessor of such an animal, but there was something peculiar about this mule. He—the animal—could kick higher, hit harder on the slightest provocation, and act uglier than any mule on record.

One morning riding his property to market, Jake met Jim Boggs, against whom he had an old but concealed grudge. He knew Boggs' weakness lay in bragging and betting; therefore he saluted him accordingly—"How are you Jim? Fine morning."

"Hearty, squire," replied Jim. Fine weather. Nice mule that you have. Will he do to bet on?"

"Bet on? Guess he will do that. I tell you, Jim Boggs, he's the best mule in this country."

"Great smash! Is that so?" ejaculated Jim.

"Solid truth, ever word of it. Tell you, confidentially, Jim, I am taking him down for betting purposes. I bet he can kick a fly off from any man without its hurting him."

"Now look here, squire," said Jim. "I am not a 'etting character, but I'll bet you something on that myself."

"Jim, there's no use; don't bet. I don't want to win your money."

"Don't be alarmed, squire; I'll take such bets as them every time."

"Well, if you are determined to bet, I will risk a small stake—say five dollars."

"All right, squire, you're my man. But who'll be kick the fly off? There is no one here but you and I. You try it."

"No," says Johnson, "I have to be by the mule's head to order him.

"Oh! yaas," says Jim. "Then probably I'm the man. Wa'll, I'll do it; but you are to bet ten against my five, if I risk it."

"All right," quoth the squire. "Now, there is a fly on your shoulder. Stand still." And Johnson adjusted the mule.

"Which, Jeevey!" said he

The mule raised his heels with such velocity and force that Boggs rose in the air like a bird, and alighted on all fours in a muddy ditch, bang up against a rail fence.

Rising in a towering rage, he exclaimed—"I'as, that mule shan't kick me. I knew your darned mule couldn't do it. You had all that put on. I wouldn't be kicked like that for fifty dollers. You can just fork over them ere stakes for it, any way."

"Not so fast, Jim! Jeevey did just what I said he could: that is, kick a fly off a man without its hurting him. You see the mule is not injured by the operation. However, if you are not satisfied, we will try it again as often as you wish."

"The deuce take you," growled Jim. I'd rather have a barn fall on me at once than hat critter kick me again. Keep the stakes; but don't say anything about it."

And Boggs trudged on in bitterness of soul, murmuring to himself: "Sold, by thunder! and kicked by a mule!"

THE ONLY TRUE HOME.

The home is never truly home except as the marriage union is sanctified by God and the whole domestic life is ruled and blessed by the law of the spirit of Jesus Christ! This alone it is that surely exalts and redeems. I care not how bright and beautiful may seem the future that a w omens itself to affianced hearts, nor how fine the mansion or elegant the appointments which they may call their own, nor how refined their tastes, how choice their associations, or how abundant their stores—their is no immunity from peril, no realization of the highest bliss, unless the Lord of life and glory abide in the house, as ever welcome and cherished guest and friend. A shadow rests upon every family circle where His name is not known, where there is no open or secret voice of prayer, and where there is not inculcated with sedulous care the profoundest reverence for God; for Christ; for Scripture; for the institutions and observances of our holy religion; and for the mighty, heavenly truths, principles, and realities that outlast the perishable and fleeting things of earth and time. This alone it is, I repeat, that truly exalts and redeems, purifying love and strengthening trust, eliminating every discordant element and perfecting every sacred tie, creating in each soul a deeper, tenderer interest for the lasting good of the other, lessening its cruses, and glorifying the daily cares of life, giving a purer significance to the marriage union and a loftier elevation to its multiform experiences and allotments, and diffusing everywhere a gracious atmosphere of sweetness and light."—*Rev. Dr. A. P. Putnam, in Religious Magazine.*

CHRISTIANITY FITTED FOR ALL.

Henry Ward Beecher, in a recent lecture-room talk, said:—You sort your men for your work. Do you suppose the Lord don't know as much about human nature as we do? There is a problem at the end of every man's life, and divine grace and wisdom are to be shown in just these men and their opportunities; so we must dismiss our artificial standards, and regard a man according to what he hath, and not according to what he hath not. How are we to make use of the revealed relations of the Lord Jesus Christ to our lives? We are apt to think that He belongs to folks that are happy, and that when we can rejoice we can have Christ. But if a man is low down, sins a good deal, and on purpose, too, is grossly hypocritical and bad, he thinks religion is not for him. Religion adapts itself to the lowest. Even to give the cup of cold water is accepted as a token of good. God looks with complacency upon the good, and with benevolence to the lowest point where man desires and is trying to live aright.

A SMALL-POX REMEDY.

The following statement of a correspondent of the Stockton (Cal.) *Herald* has been going the rounds of the papers. An ex-Californian says he has seen it tested with entire success. We reproduce it, therefore, for what it is worth.

I herewith append a recipe which has been used, to my knowledge, in hundreds of cases. It will prevent or cure the small-pox though the pittings are filling. When Jenner discovered cow-pox in England the world of science hailed an avalanche of fame upon his head; but when the most scientific school of medicine in the world—that of Paris—published this recipe as a panacea it passed unheeded. It is as unfailing as fate, and conquere in every instance. It is harmless when taken by a well person. It will also cure scarlet fever. Here is the recipe as I have used it, and cured my children of the scarlet fever; here it is as I have used it to cure the small-pox, when learned physicians said the patient must die, it cured: Sulphate zinc, 1 grain; fox-glove (digitalis), 1 grain; half a teaspoonful of sugar; mix with two tablespoonfuls of water; when thoroughly mixed add four ounces of water. Take a spoonful every hour. Either disease will disappear in twelve hours. For a child smaller doses, according to age. If counties would compel their physicians to use this there would be no need of pest houses. If you value advice and expérience use this for that terrible disease.

☞ In Chicago they find out everything the Duke Alexis says or thinks, and then print it. For instance, the following about the ladies:—I have not seen the Chicago ladies yet,—says Alexis, regretfully,—but if they compare favorably with the other ladies I have seen in the country, it will be a compliment. The New York ladies are the handsomest I have seen; the Philidelphia ladies the most stately, and physically the most—what you call it?—*superbe*; and the Boston ladies the most refined and intellectual—the best educated ladies I ever encountered, on the whole, I suppose. You American men are more like Englishmen than I had anticipated—though you are of the same stock. Yes are, only a little sharper and more quick in your decisions and movements.

Domestic Economy.

VALUABLE RECIPES.

COFFEE CAKE.—One cup of cold coffee strained, one cup of sour cream, two large cups of brown sugar, five eggs, one cup of currants, one of raisins, one teaspoonful of cloves, allspice, cinnamon, one grated nutmeg, and a teaspoonful of saleratus, with flour enough to make it stiff.

DOVER CAKE.—Two eggs beat with one cup of sugar, one half cup of butter and same of milk beat in it, two cups of flour, with one teaspoonful soda and one teaspoonful cream tartar sifted in it. Stir all well together and flavor with nutmeg.

Anecdotes

☞ A kind hearted but illiterate liv